The cast at the 1999 SAG Awards.

THERE FOR YOU: ROSS, PHOEBE, RACHEL, MONICA, JOEY & CHANDLER

IF YOU REMEMBER 'HOW *YOU* DOIN'?' 'SMELLY CAT' AND 'WE WERE ON A BREAK!' IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE 25 YEARS WITH YOUR FRIENDS ***PLUS*** TAKE THE APARTMENT QUIZ

Boys vs. girls in the season 4 "Quiz" episode.

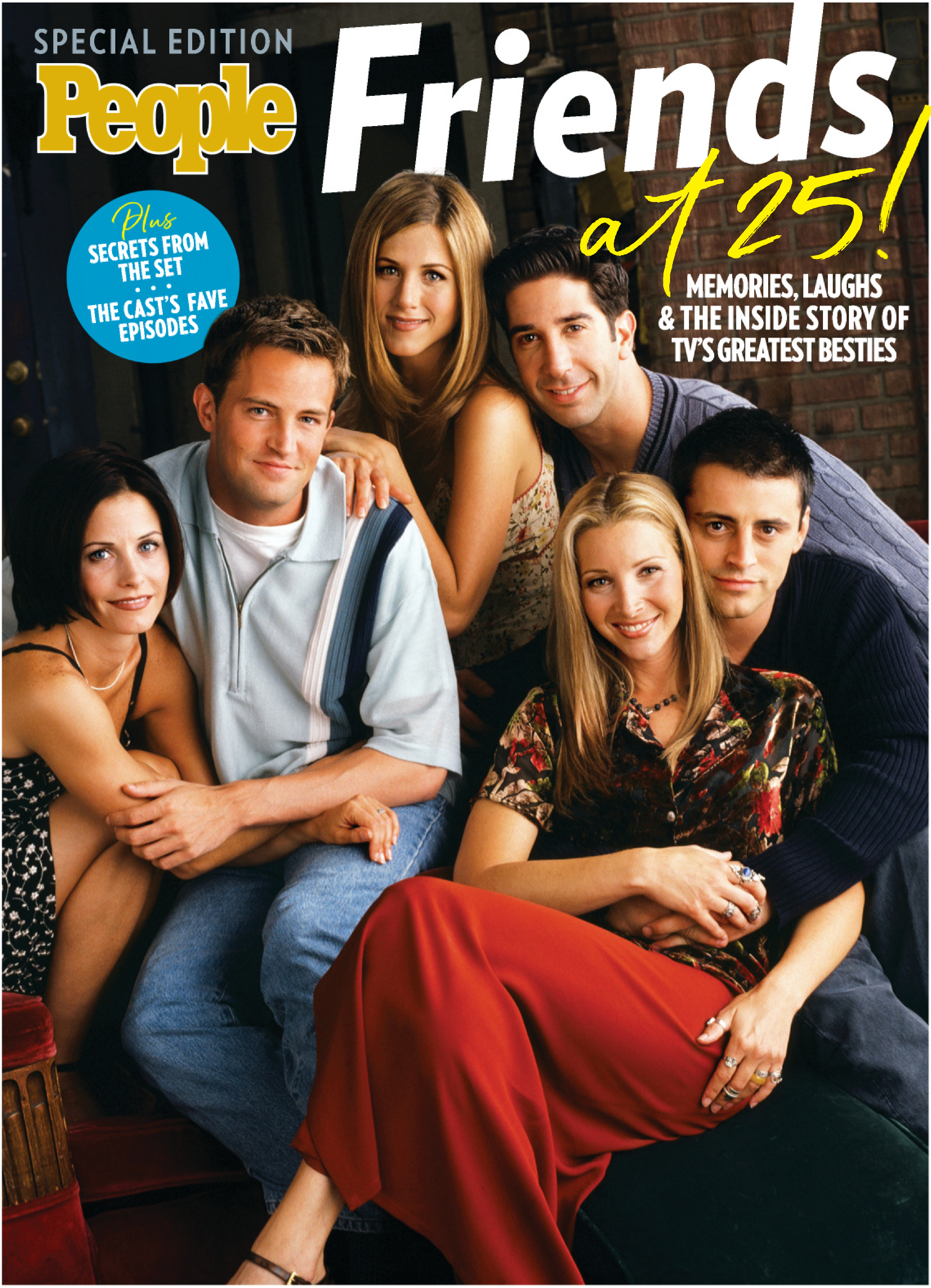
Ross and Rachel forever! (A kiss from season 2.)

SPECIAL EDITION
People

Friends at 25!

MEMORIES, LAUGHS & THE INSIDE STORY OF TV'S GREATEST BESTIES

Plus
SECRETS FROM THE SET
• • •
THE CAST'S FAVE EPISODES



SPECIAL EDITION
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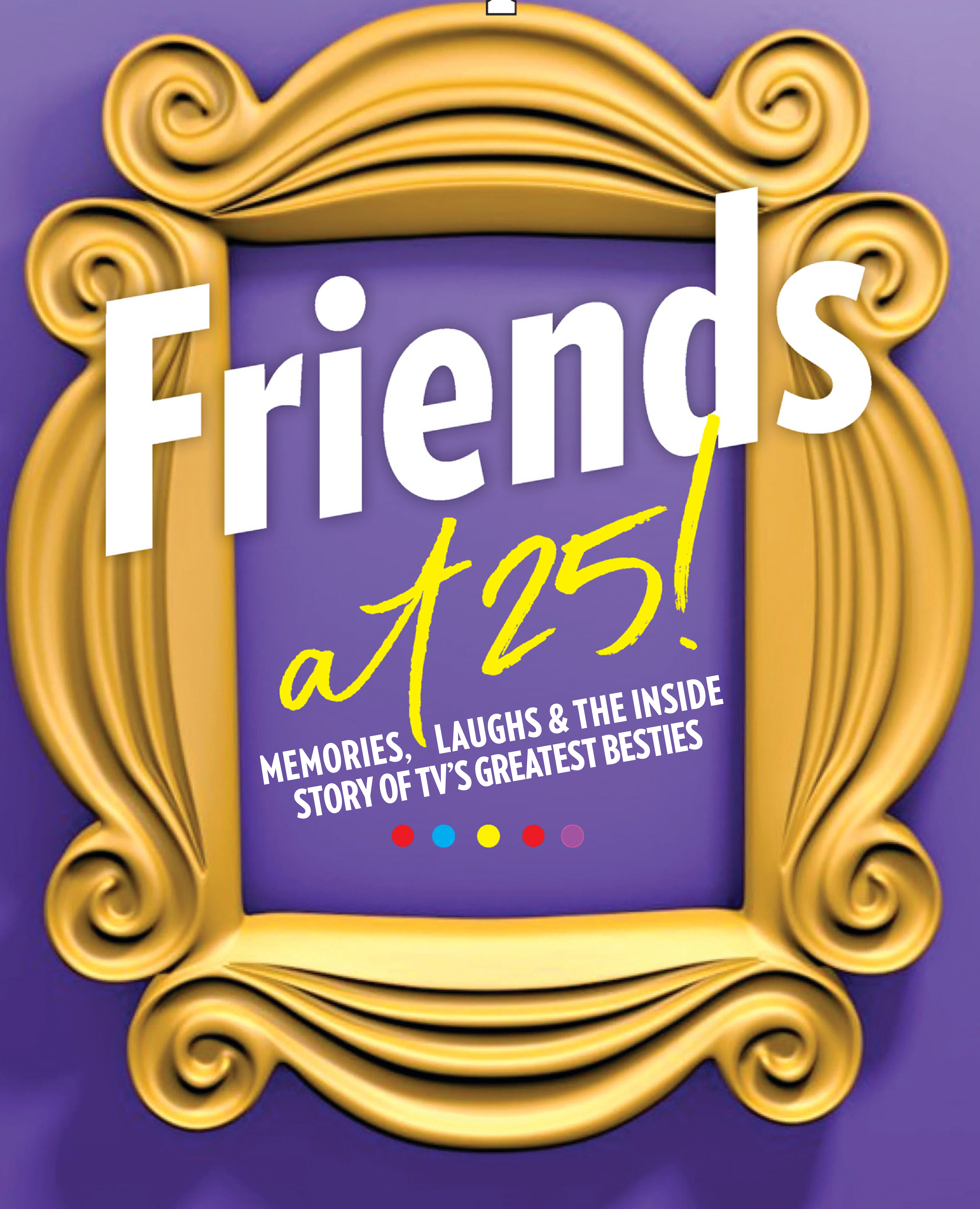

Friends at 25!

MEMORIES, LAUGHS & THE INSIDE STORY OF TV'S GREATEST BESTIES

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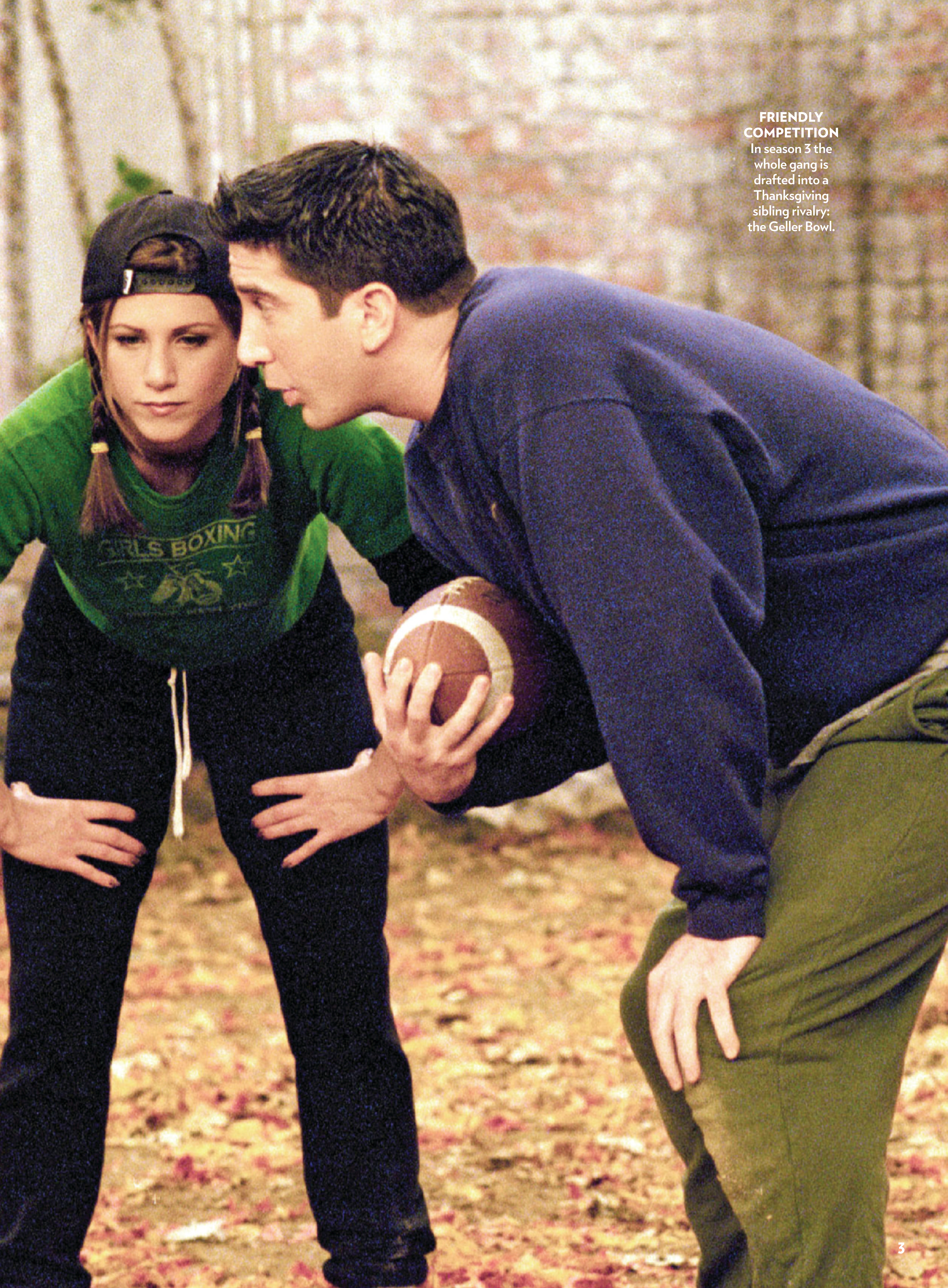

GIRLS BOXING

FRIENDLY COMPETITION In season 3 the whole gang is drafted into a Thanksgiving sibling rivalry: the Geller Bowl.

THEY TOLD US LIFE WAS GONNA BE THIS WAY

FOR 10 YEARS THEY MADE US LAUGH—AND ACTUALLY TAUGHT US A LOT

WE HAVE, AS A nation, devoted a *lot* of time to watching *Friends.* For a decade starting in 1994, we made it a top hit for NBC. When it went into syndication, it took an act of will to change the dial when, late at night, we stumbled upon, say, "The One with the Apothecary Table." And since *Friends* has been available to stream, well, try to stop at just one. We spent so much time in the virtual company of Rachel, Ross, Monica, Chandler, Joey and Phoebe that by the time the show was in its eighth season a 2002 evolutionary-biology study found that our brains may not be able to distinguish between real-life friends and fictional ones. Let that sink in as you put your feet up on the apothecary table that Pottery Barn started selling again this year, to mark *Friends'* 25th anniversary.

A quarter century. Wow. Has it been just lost time, watching Ross and Rachel get together and break up and get together again? Not at all! Think of what we've learned! Lobsters mate for life. (Thanks, Phoebe!) "A smile goes a long way. And if anyone is ever rude to you: sneeze muffin." (Rachel, with the waitressing wisdom.) The greatest post-Thanksgiving sandwich has a third slice of bread, soaked in gravy. "I call it the moist-maker." (Ross.) There may be seven erogenous zones on a woman's body, but you don't just "go to seven and set up camp." (Monica.) Pretending to move to Yemen is not a good way to break up with someone. (Chandler.) And finally, when something is unimportant? "It's a moo point. Like a cow's opinion. It doesn't matter. It's moo." (Joey, who might secretly be a genius based on this alone.)

The pilot, in which Rachel Green arrives in the city to start adulting (as no one said back then), concludes with her roommate Monica delivering a moral worthy of Aesop: "Welcome to the real world. It sucks. You're gonna love it."

And we did. *Friends* was both realistic—life in your 20s is about jobs you don't want and relation-

GENIUS TIP!
Have your Chinese food delivered to your neighbors so you never have to leave your TV recliners.

ships that don't pan out—and also a fantasy that proposed you could end up with your high school crush, that your soulmate is already among your group of friends, and that the couch at your favorite coffee shop will always be unoccupied. Who wouldn't want to spend all their time with these people?

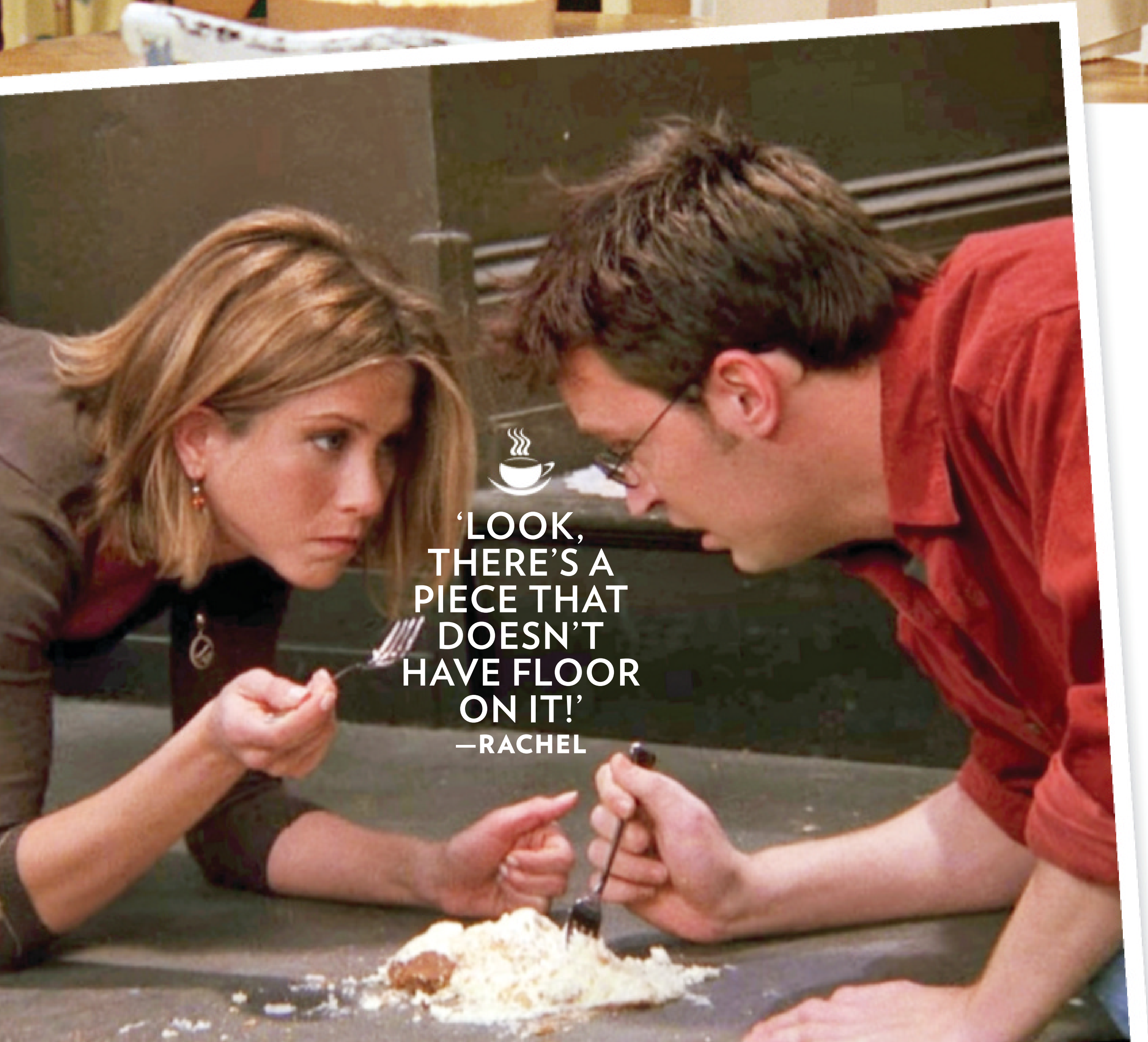
It helped that as the cast got famous, we came to know them too, or feel like we did. When Courteney Cox married David Arquette in 1999, the first episode to air after the wedding added "Arquette" to every cast member's name in the credits. For viewers it was like being in on a workplace in-joke. More importantly, it seemed the people playing the Friends were actually friends. Even fans who didn't read the trade papers knew how the cast members landed million-dollar-an-episode deals by forming a union of six equals. Asking for more money isn't rare in Hollywood, but "what is unusual is this cast's effort to use solidarity as leverage," noted *The New York Times*. That bond has held in the 15 years the show has been off the air, with Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, David Schwimmer, Matthew Perry and Matt LeBlanc turning up for one another's premieres, birthdays and other milestones.

People, which has covered the show and its cast since day one, is celebrating *Friends* turning 25 with this special issue. Relive hilarious moments. Revisit the season 1 set and soon-to-be stars. Hear their thoughts on the series' end, and take the quiz that cost the girls that rent-controlled apartment. Wasted time? Not at all. You've been preparing for just this moment.

THE BEST OF TIMES

CHEESECAKE. JELLYFISH. 'PIVOT!' IN ITS 10 SEASONS, FRIENDS OFFERED COUNTLESS LAUGHS—THESE ARE 10 OF THEIR FUNNIEST

FLOCK TOGETHER Mining the characters' pasts—in this case, the college years—is always good for a gag. It's no surprise that Rachel seems to forget she kissed New Wave-era Chandler.



‘LOOK, THERE’S A PIECE THAT DOESN’T HAVE FLOOR ON IT!’
—**RACHEL**

THE CHEESECAKE ALLIANCE

When a neighbor’s cheesecake is mistakenly delivered to Chandler’s apartment in 2001, he and Rachel can’t bring themselves to return it because it’s “too delicious.” Obsessed, they find (and steal) the replacement cheesecake; their battle over the dessert lands it on the floor, where they continue to eat it.

‘LOOK AT ME,
I’M CHANDLER.
COULD I *BE*
WEARING ANY
MORE CLOTHES?’
—JOEY

JOEY GOES COMMANDO

During a 1996 spat that erupts when they should be getting dressed for Ross’s big museum benefit, Chandler hides Joey’s underwear. “You hide my clothes? I’m going to do the exact opposite to you,” says Joey, who retaliates by donning most of his roommate’s wardrobe and “going commando” (i.e., no boxers) in it. The pièce de résistance: lunges.

DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME

When Monica is stung by a jellyfish, Joey suggests a remedy he heard about on TV. "That's right, I stepped up!" Joey later tells the gang. "If I had to, I'd pee on any one of you." Ultimately it's Chandler who helps her out. When he asks if she would ever consider going out with him, Monica says no. "You'll always be the guy who peed on me." (Pro tip: It doesn't work.)

'DAMN ALL THE JELLYFISH!'
—MONICA

A TRIFLE DISGUSTING

In charge of dessert for Thanksgiving 1999, Rachel makes a "traditional English trifle." Regrettably, Ross discovers her cookbook pages were stuck together and she added sauteed beef, peas and onions from a shepherd's pie to the dessert. Everyone pretends to enjoy it, except Joey, who wolfs down a whole plateful. "I like it," says Joey. "Custard, good. Jam, good. Meat? Good!"

'IT TASTES LIKE FEET!'
—ROSS

NOT A DRY EYE IN THE HOUSE

"I don't put things in my eye," announces Rachel after being prescribed drops to treat an infection. In a choreographed effort that begins with Ross's code words "Pass me the *TV Guide*," Phoebe, Monica, Chandler and Ross tackle her and administer the drops. "We'll see you in three or four hours," says a triumphant Monica.

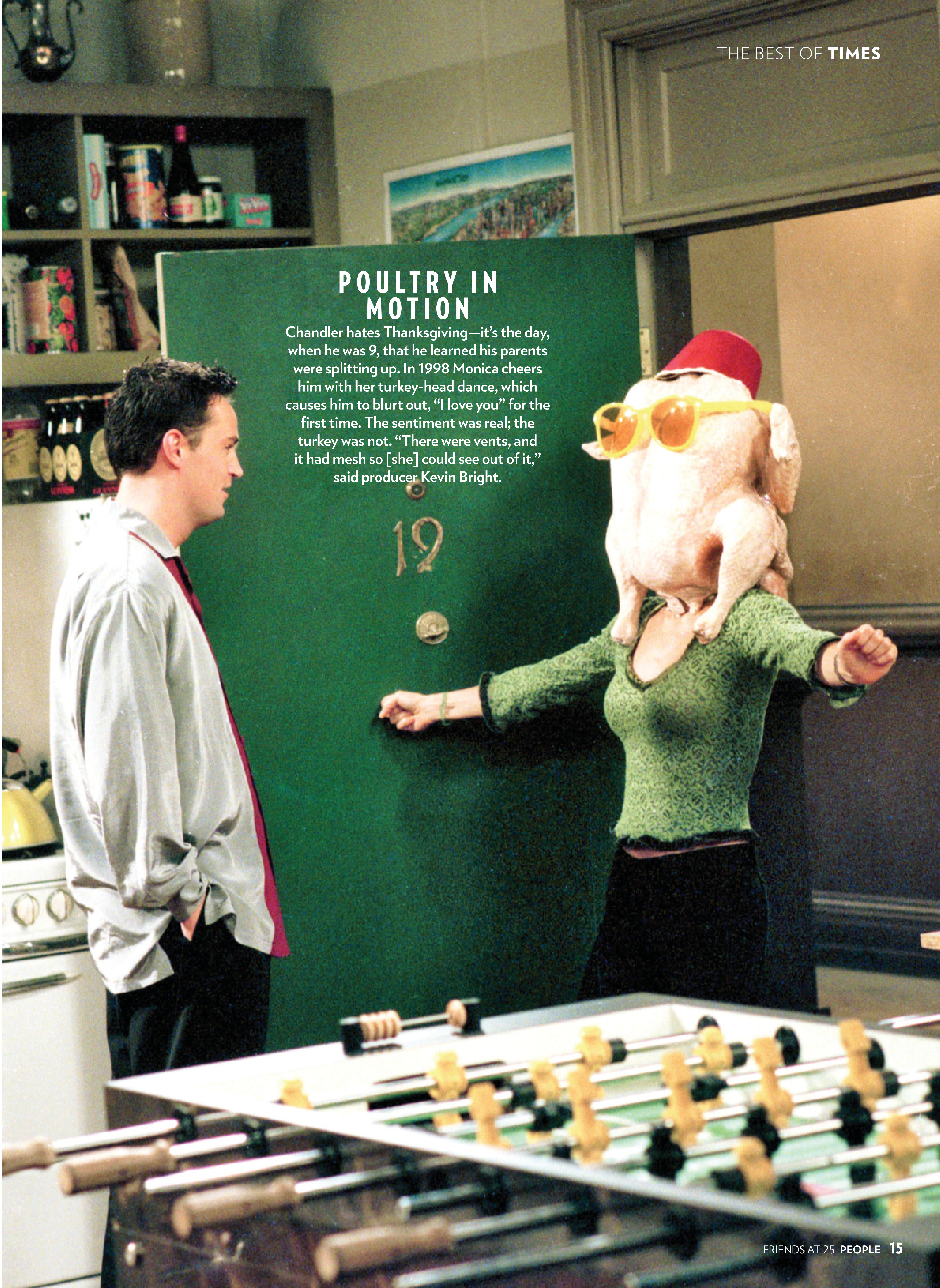
‘THE CAMERA ADDS 10 LBS.’
—MONICA

‘SO, HOW MANY CAMERAS ARE ACTUALLY ON YOU?’
—CHANDLER

‘LOOKING GOOD, MR. KOTTER!’
—JOEY

THE WAY THEY WERE

When Monica unearths a long-forgotten prom video, we get to see Rachel (pre-nose job) and Monica (pre-slimdown) in high school. The gags are broad, but the hilarity turns touching when Rachel learns Ross was preparing to stand in when it looked like her date wasn’t going to show up. “I can’t believe you did that,” says Monica, as Rachel walks over and plants a huge kiss on Ross. Cue their 1996 romance.



POULTRY IN MOTION

Chandler hates Thanksgiving—it's the day, when he was 9, that he learned his parents were splitting up. In 1998 Monica cheers him with her turkey-head dance, which causes him to blurt out, "I love you" for the first time. The sentiment was real; the turkey was not. "There were vents, and it had mesh so [she] could see out of it," said producer Kevin Bright.

COUCH CASE

Ross buys a couch in 1999, but he's too cheap to pay for delivery and enlists Rachel to help him get it home. Rachel grabs Chandler as reinforcement, but they are unable to maneuver the sofa up Ross's stairwell despite his repeated screams at them to "Pivot!" There's no punch line beyond Chandler's echoed "Shut up. Shut up! Shut up!" And yet it may be the funniest three minutes of the show.

CHANDLER & PHOEBE?

After Joey and Rachel, Phoebe becomes the third to learn Monica and Chandler are an item by spotting them from Ross's window ("My eyes!"). She flirts with Chandler to get them to confess. "The scene where she [touches his] biceps—I don't think we ever got through it in rehearsal. Lisa was always the first one to break," said director Michael Lembeck." When Monica realizes "they don't know that we know that they know" she has Chandler flirt back, to call Phoebe's bluff. On their awkward "date," Chandler at last admits that he can't be with Phoebe because he's "in love with Monica."

'I'M VERY HAPPY WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ALL THE SEX'
—CHANDLER

‘PIVOT, PIVOT, PIVOT!’
—ROSS

HERE THEY COME

As Ross prepares to marry Emily in 1998, Monica picks up the bride’s gown and can’t stop wearing it. Phoebe shows up similarly dressed, and the two throw bouquets at each other until Monica decides she looks “sad” in the borrowed wedding dress. “At least you didn’t rent yours from a store called It’s Not Too Late,” responds the pregnant Phoebe.

FLASHBACK
EXCLUSIVE

INSIDE THE

JUST AS *FRIENDS* WAS TAKING OFF WITH VIEWERS, *PEOPLE* VISITED THE SET TO MEET SIX ACTORS

COLLABORATIVE ART
"We try to do stuff together," said Cox (center, with, from left, Kudrow, LeBlanc, Perry, Aniston and Schwimmer on their day off at Color Me Mine, a paint-it-yourself pottery shop).

FIRST SEASON

WHO HAD BECOME FAST FRIENDS IN REAL LIFE AND STILL HAD HUGE THINGS TO COME

Before *Friends* was a phenomenon, its six stars were excited just to be on a series that had been picked up. In 1995 (back when we used phrases like "hunka hunka" and "muy macho"—sorry, Matt LeBlanc), *People* had exclusive access to the season 1 set. This look at the early days of a hit and of enduring friendships first appeared in April that year.

BACKSTAGE AT Warner Bros. Studios the cast of NBC's hit sitcom *Friends* is hard at work. Sort of. Well, okay, they're goofing off. In the hallway, David Schwimmer and Jennifer Aniston are on the floor wrestling before heading out for a frozen yogurt. Lisa Kudrow is cutting a cookie with a knife and fork. Matthew Perry is explaining how, unfortunately, his own romantic life provides material for his lovelorn *Friends* character, Chandler. "One of the producers came up and asked me one Monday how a date had gone over the weekend," he says. "I said, 'It went great. We went out for dinner, then for a nice walk on Melrose and back to her place, where we shared a nice kiss good night. And I'm pretty confident that I'm going to die alone.' "

On the air the same blend of silliness and self-deprecating humor—his "die alone" line later turned up in the script—has made *Friends* into a palpable hit. In its first season out, it's the only new sitcom still in the Nielsen 10, and it has risen as high as No. 2. The secret can't be complicated plots (there aren't any) or dramatic car-chase scenes (ditto). It might have something to do with good writing and a strong concept: six mildly neurotic, single twentysomethings in search of a life, with punch lines.

The creators of the show, David Crane and Marta Kauffman, had done *Dream On* for HBO, "which is about people who have already made their choices in life and have to figure out how to live with them," says Perry, 25. "They pitched this show to the network as being about people who are just about to make those choices." As such, *Friends* appeals both to people in their 20s and to people who have been there but haven't forgotten. "What makes the show so successful is you see a piece of your own life up there," says executive producer Kevin Bright. Also, unlike *ER*, the season's other notable hit, *Friends* never causes viewers to worry that someone's chest is going to be sliced open with a scalpel.

Friends' biggest asset by far, though, is an ensemble cast that clicks: Schwimmer (the nerdy-but-nice Ross); Aniston (Rachel, the spoiled rich girl getting her first jolt of reality by waitressing at the *Friends* coffee-bar hangout, Central Perk); Courteney Cox (compulsively neat, overachieving Monica, the girl you hated in seventh grade); Matt LeBlanc (Joey, a hunka hunka aspiring actor); Perry (Chandler, stuck in an office job he loathes but won't leave); and Lisa Kudrow (Phoebe, a wifty free spirit given to non sequiturs).

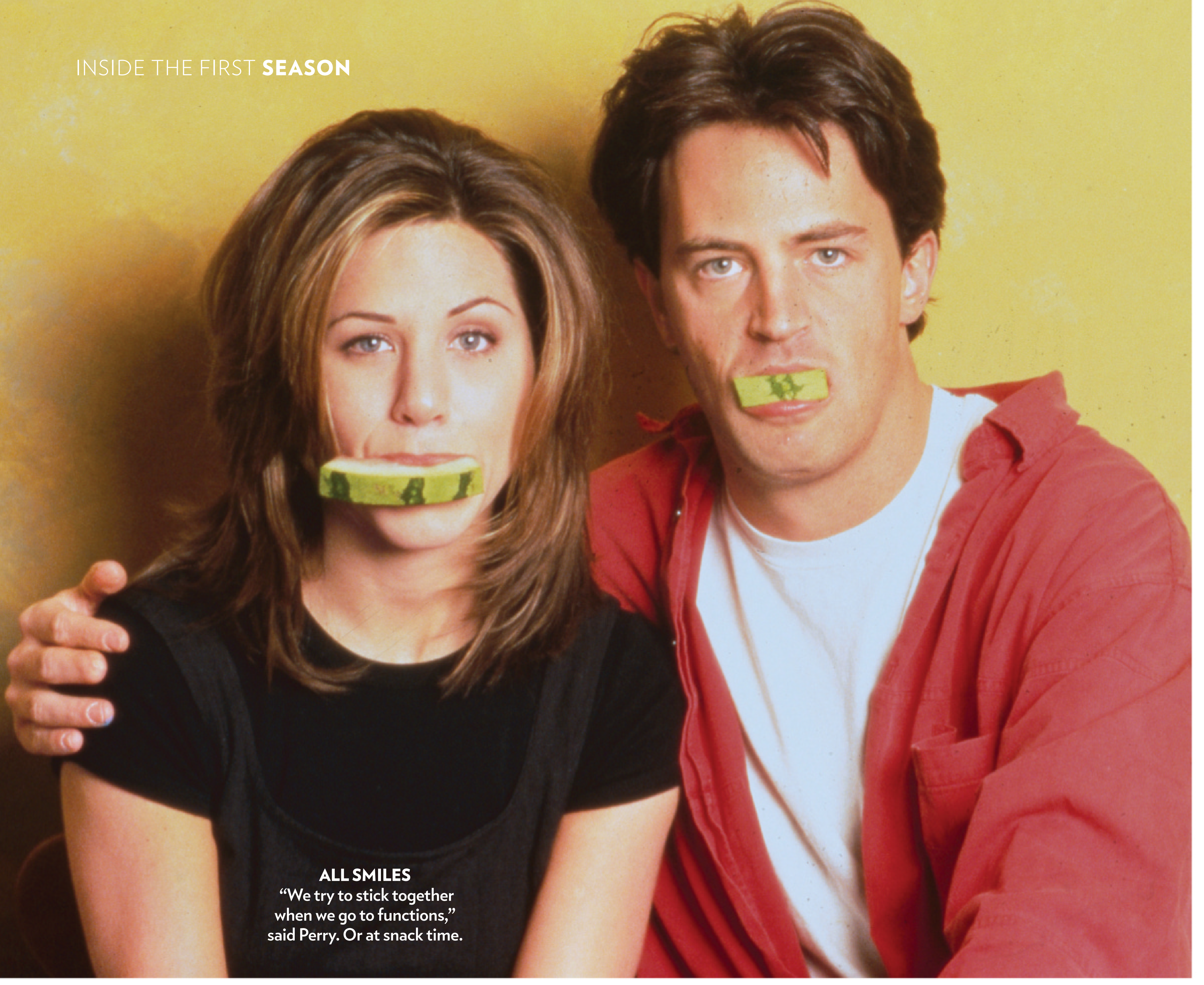
Someday, as Cox jokes, they may

ON A BREAK (FROM WORK)
"They have the qualities you want in a friend," said Aniston of Kudrow (left) and Cox (center).

develop big egos and big rivalries, and "we'll all go to our big trailers and never speak." Or perhaps Aniston will spill all to *Hard Copy* about Schwimmer's wild nights out with Marcel the monkey. But not now. Six months into a hit, this is one happy, mutually supportive crew, and when they talk about being friends off the set, it's believable. Says LeBlanc: "Even if we weren't working together and just met each other at a party, we'd absolutely still hang out together." As it is, in odd groups of two and three, they breakfast together, shop or take the occasional field trip. (On one recent outing, to a paint-it-yourself pottery store, Kudrow couldn't decide what to call the abstract design she had created on a plate: "Grapevine in the Wind? Or Cyclone of Beauty? Maybe Big Ball of Hate is better?") "We all bonded instantly," says Aniston, 26, who was born in L.A. but raised in New York City, the daughter of actor John Aniston. "It's rare."

The director, Jim Burrows, eager to foster that collegiality, helped move things along with an all-expenses-paid trip to Las Vegas last spring after NBC announced it was picking up the show. All six cast members got gussied up and spent 10 hours gambling and chowing down before flying back to L.A. "We all lost money," says Schwimmer, 28, raised in L.A. by his attorney parents, Arthur and Arlene (she handled Roseanne Barr's first divorce). "But it was fun. Courteney was screaming so loudly, she was hoarse by the end."

They had come a long way from the first day they showed up for work on the pilot episode a year ago. "That day was really strange," says Perry. "I was kind of like, 'Hi, I don't know who you are, but hopefully we'll be working together for



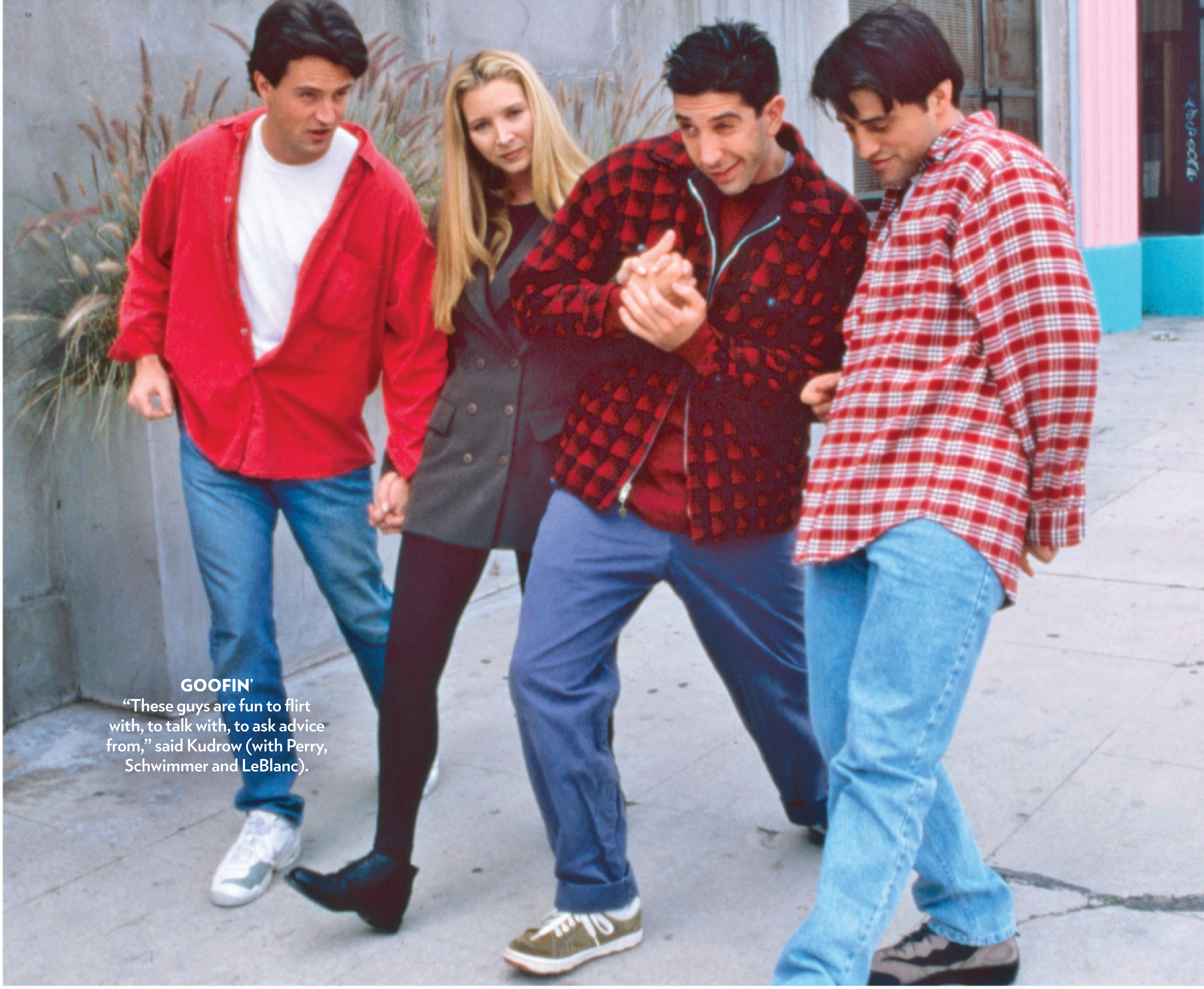
ALL SMILES
"We try to stick together when we go to functions," said Perry. Or at snack time.

the next 12,000 years.'" They all knew there were no guarantees. Perry had briefly been on *Growing Pains*. LeBlanc survived *Vinnie and Bobby*. Schwimmer was seeking refuge from *Monty*. Aniston muddled through *Muddling Through*. Even Cox, a semiregular on *Family Ties* (as Michael J. Fox's girlfriend), had been through the misfortune of *Misfits of Science*.

Still, Cox was the one who made everybody else nervous, because, says Schwimmer, "she was the one big name in the cast." As it turns out, the 30-year-old Alabama native has evolved into a kind of den mother, both on and off the set. "She was actually the first person to speak up about us being a team," says Perry. "It was our second day of work, and we went outside on a break together. She said, 'This is an ensemble show. I think we should really all try to help each other out.' Everybody just jumped on that." Cox remembers the moment well. "I had been on a show before where there wasn't that much camaraderie, so I figured it was important to let them know I was just there to make the show better. I let them know this wasn't a competition."

Some cast members were also nervous about LeBlanc, 27, who hails from Newton, Mass. (his father is a mechanic and his mother makes circuit boards), and whose résumé includes a stint looking studly as a Levi's model. "I was scared of that type of guy," says Aniston, who assumed he'd be muy macho. "He thinks it's very funny now. And actually, he can sit down and comfort me just like Courteney or Lisa could."

After the pilot was picked up and they knew they would be seeing one another every workday, they began letting their guards down. "I think what really made me realize how close we were was when we started doing interviews and reporters would ask us questions about each other, like 'What do you really think of so-and-so?'" says Kudrow, 31, a Vassar graduate who majored in biology and who got her big break as the ditzy waitress



GOOFIN'
"These guys are fun to flirt with, to talk with, to ask advice from," said Kudrow (with Perry, Schwimmer and LeBlanc).

Ursula on *Mad About You*. "Those questions felt really personal to me, and I knew these people had become part of my life. I was deliberately vague with my answers."

Cast members say Perry is at the center of many gags. "He keeps us all in a good mood," Schwimmer says, "by coming up with that one-liner that makes us smile." Schwimmer, a Northwestern graduate, pegs himself as the father figure. "I feel a little older than the others, with a little more perspective on things," he says. LeBlanc considers himself "the brother type," and Aniston is like the little sister. Then there's Kudrow. "She's like an island," says LeBlanc. "She's sort of standing off on her own, totally secure."

"These characters are slightly exaggerated, slightly more entertaining versions of ourselves," says Perry, who grew up in Ottawa, the son of John Bennett Perry, an actor best known for Old Spice commercials. "I know Chandler is similar to me. But if you watched my life for a week, there would be many more boring parts." In one show the writers took one of Perry's quirky habits and gave it to Chandler. "He has this way of speaking, using questions like 'Could this *be* any more this or that?' " says Aniston. "So they wrote an entire episode about how everybody at his office makes fun of the way he talks."

The friendships on *Friends* are all strictly platonic. The closest they get to romance is Ross's secret crush on Rachel. There's no pairing up in real life, either. Perry, LeBlanc and Aniston are unattached. Schwimmer has a girlfriend in New Orleans. Cox has been seeing *Batman* star Michael Keaton for several years. Kudrow is engaged to French adman Michel Stern. Cox doesn't think keeping everyone out of bed on the show is unrealistic. "I've got some great guy friends," she says. "They can start out as crushes. But when you realize something isn't going to happen, you make a choice whether or not the friendship is worth it. It usually is. Then you can laugh about the fact that you used to have a crush on him or he had one on you."

"Either that happens, or the stalking starts," interrupts Perry, deadpan. "The police get involved. It gets messy."

"Yeah, remember that?" chimes in LeBlanc.

They may be providing each other's punch lines now, but will success leave them taking swipes at each other? No breakout star has emerged from the cast yet, but Schwimmer is certainly an early favorite. It could be his character's unusual family situation—his pregnant wife left him for her lesbian lover—or the gawky, slightly embarrassed way he delivers some of the show's best lines. A true sign of new status: He recently started appearing in AT&T commercials. "You know that a Ted Danson or a Shelley Long tends to emerge from a show," says producer Bright. But he says he works hard to see that all six of his actors "feel very satisfied that they've been looked after" and that "there is no counting lines of dialogue to see who has more to say." And, he says, esprit de corps prevails: "These people are always feeding each other bits, fighting to make each other's parts better."

During a recent rehearsal, the

‘THESE WOMEN ARE DEFINITELY MY SOUNDING BOARDS. WE LIKE TO DO THE GIRL THING’
—COURTENEY COX, OF ANISTON AND KUDROW

cast was working on a scene in the coffeehouse that begins with LeBlanc, Perry and Schwimmer sitting around talking. Perry suddenly puts his hands down by his feet and starts humming the theme from *My Three Sons*. Without missing a beat, Schwimmer and LeBlanc join in. Everyone cracks up. But the director, Gail Mancuso, decides the idea doesn’t work, since they’re supposed to be talking about the fate of Ross’s pet Marcel, who may have to be sent to a zoo.

So the actors come up with another idea. Since they are talking about the monkey, why not have one of them cover his eyes, another his mouth and the third his ears—as in “see no evil, speak no evil, hear no evil”? This time it works, and the scene stays in.

“A lot of actors look at sitcoms as the stepping-stone to a movie deal,” says Perry. “But the attitude here is that this show is something we can go home and be proud of every day. Everyone is open to everyone else’s ideas. The deal here is, the funniest joke wins, no matter what.”

Spoken like a true friend.
—Craig Tomashoff in Los Angeles

THE CAST

THERE FOR YOU

CHANDLER, MONICA, JOEY, PHOEBE, ROSS AND RACHEL: WE KNOW THEM AS WELL AS WE KNOW SOME OF OUR REAL-LIFE FRIENDS

SOAKING IN IT
The ensemble in a season 2 shoot.

CHEF MATES
More assured in the kitchen than on the dating scene, Monica turns to coworker Paula (*Black-ish* star Jenifer Lewis) for advice.

M·O·N·I·C·A

THOUGH TIGHTLY WOUND, SHE PROVIDED THE CALM CENTER (AND SNACKS) IN THE GANG'S STORMY LIVES

I

IN THE BEGINNING THERE WAS Monica, who illegally took over the lease of her grandma Althea's too-good-to-be true rent-regulated apartment in Greenwich Village. ("If the landlord ever asks, I'm an 87-year-old woman who's afraid of her VCR.") Without that there would have been no cozy nest for *Friends*' controlling mother-hen figure to gather her rambunctious brood of pals. Obsessively neat, aggressively organized, Monica soon learned to (sort of) cope with the chaos of perfectly planned Thanksgivings that invariably went

off the rails, of windows that looked out on Ugly Naked Guy, and of the influx of roommates and couch-surfing neighbors who didn't share her passion for orderliness. "I need to live in a land where people can spill," said Phoebe, by way of explaining her exit across town. "You can spill!" Monica assured her. "In the sink."

"I fit this character perfectly," Cox told *People* shortly after the show took off. "Monica likes to take care of people. I tend to—well, I hate to say mother, because it sounds so annoying—but I do that too. And one of her quirks is that she's a clean freak, really neat. I was watching myself after an interview I did on the Greg Kinnear show, and I was literally picking lint off the chair and my jacket while I was talking. I had no idea I was doing it, but that's something Monica would do." And yet back when co-creator Marta Kauffman was casting the show, she actually envisioned Cox as Rachel, Jennifer Aniston's character. Cox convinced them she was Monica. And without Cox playing her, it is hard to imagine the delicious competitive blood

BUFF STUFF
To make Joey and Chandler's dingy apartment feel more like home, clean-freak Monica took a joyous ride on the floor polisher.

UNHAPPY DAYS
Monica hated the costume and fake breasts she had to wear while working at the Moondance Diner. (But it was there where she met future boyfriend Pete Becker.)

> 'I THINK WE SHOULD SAVE OUR WEDDING CHINA FOR SOMETHING SPECIAL, LIKE IF THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND COMES OVER'
> **—MONICA**

lust Monica brought to most everything—the football contests for the Geller Cup (a troll doll nailed to a board), wedding-dress shopping as death sport, trash-talking Phoebe's boyfriend Mike (Paul Rudd) during Ping-Pong or the hugely mundane yet high-stakes race of wind-up toys. When she set her mind to it, Monica usually prevailed—she lost all the weight seen in those flashback episodes when she overheard her brother Ross's college roommate Chandler call her "fat." (Reader, she married him.)

In the 10 years spent in her compulsive company, Monica evolves professionally after being fired from an assistant-chef job. She makes a few necessary detours into costumed diner waitressing, catering with Phoebe and "Mockolate" recipe development, which runs into FDA-approval issues. Ultimately she lands a great chef position at a restaurant that isn't just "'Health Department'-clean, it's 'Monica'-clean!" Of course, as she found her dream job, her husband's office transferred him to Tulsa, Okla. "You can't go; you're the glue that holds this group together," Ross told his sister on hearing the news. After a moment of reflection—they all know this to be true of Monica—Phoebe called dibs on their soon-to-be vacated apartment.

In the purple glow of Monica's home, the pillows were always fluffed, the fridge always stocked (weirdly, once with a glass of chicken fat) and warm throws always handy. By the end of the series, she and Chandler and their twins head for the suburbs, where she no doubt chased the toddlers around with coasters.

MONICA'S MENU OF MEN

SHE'D LIKED CHANDLER SINCE COLLEGE, BUT FOR A LONG TIME HE JUST SEEMED LIKE A PAL, SO SHE KEPT LOOKING

● ● ● ● ●

1. PAUL THE WINE GUY (played by John Allen Nelson) Monica's first *Friends* date—in the pilot, with a former restaurant coworker who was never heard from again.

2. ALAN (Geoffrey Lower) Atypically, all of the Friends like this boyfriend except her, and when she broke up with him, he revealed that he couldn't stand the rest of the gang.

3. FUN BOBBY (Vincent Ventresca) Monica helped "Fun" Bobby give up his problem drinking. Sadly, sober he was "Ridiculously Dull Bobby."

4. YOUNG ETHAN (Stan Kirsch, above, top right) He said he was a college senior, and she said she was 22. He was actually in high school, and Monica, 26, couldn't deal because "it's icky." (It is.)

5. JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME (as himself, left) The action star went out with Monica after Rachel told him that Monica would have a threesome with him and Drew Barrymore. Uh, no.

6. RICHARD BURKE (Tom Selleck, above, left) Monica got serious with the ophthalmologist, who was 21 years her senior and her father's best friend. They split when she realized he wouldn't want to have children with her—he already had grown kids. He popped up again before Chandler proposed.

7. JULIO (Carlos Gomez) Monica falls for her amateur poet coworker at the Moondance Diner until she is outraged at his poem denigrating "empty vase" American women.

8. PETE BECKER (Jon Favreau, above, bottom right) Their first date was for pizza—in Rome. And Monica found herself drawn to the multimillionaire tech exec until he became obsessed with becoming the Ultimate Fighting Champion.

9. CHIP MATTHEWS (Dan Gauthier) The thought of dating the cool kid from high school was exciting. The fact that he still had the same job as back then, still lived with his parents and still gave wedgies was not.

10. TIM BURKE (Michael Vartan) Monica invited Richard Burke's handsome son to Thanksgiving, but kissing the second-generation ophthalmologist reminded her too much of Richard. As Rachel warned her earlier, "it's like inviting Greek tragedy over for dinner."

THEY 'DO'
In the season 7 finale, Internet-ordained minister Joey couldn't get out of filming a role as a WWI soldier and married Monica and Chandler in costume. Hearing them referred to as "the Bings" freaked out Chandler, who briefly fled to his office before the ceremony.

IT TAKES . . . TWO?!
In the show's finale, Anna Faris stepped in as Erica, a surrogate mom who delivered surprise twins, a boy and a girl, for the infertile Monica and Chandler. Their move to the suburbs was thus preordained.

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

A REAL-LIFE BEST FRIEND

CHECK HER INSTAGRAM: COURTENEY COX IS STILL TIGHT WITH HER COSTAR GAL PALS

Although she had a whole other hit series, the six-season Cougar Town, *on which she played a real estate broker perpetually on the prowl with wineglass held high, Cox never lost touch with her* Friends *costars. An Instagram sensation since joining in January (she blew up the Internet with a couch "pivot" throwback post), Cox is often seen entertaining close groups of women, including Aniston and Kudrow. She (and, on the following pages, the other cast members) spoke to* Entertainment Weekly *about* Friends *on the occasion of the 2004 series finale.*

FAVORITE EPISODE Season 4's "The One with the Embryos," in which the girls take on the boys in a who-knows-who-better contest. (See page 96 for the quiz.) "I learned more about my character and everyone else's because of these trivia questions," says Cox. "One thing that's been a running joke throughout the 10 years was that no one really knew what Chandler did for a living, and we're all just completely stumped. I screamed at Rachel that Transponster 'is not even a word!'…The times I like playing Monica the most are when she's being competitive, like when she's playing football in the Thanksgiving episode or when she's trying to get George Clooney and Noah Wyle. She kind of has no limits. And the stakes were really high [in 'Embryos'], because to lose the apartment was huge. She was so sure that she'd win that she bet the apartment. Didn't work out so well for her, did it? Not fun. Did not enjoy filming in Joey's apartment."

ON THE END "It was terrible. It was sad. It was beautiful. When [director–executive producer] Kevin Bright said at the end of the show, like he does at the end of every show, 'Okay, that's our show!' this time he really meant it. My eyes are still swollen."

LAST TIME YOU WENT INTO A COFFEEHOUSE "Yesterday. I didn't sit down on a couch, but I got a decaf latte with vanilla flavoring to go."

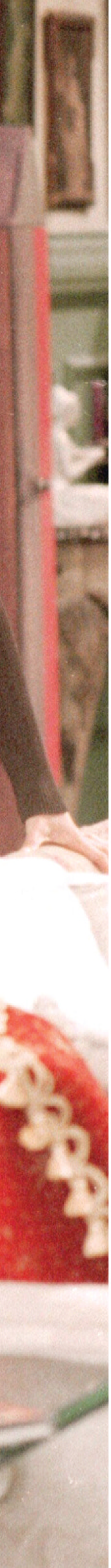
WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "Nothing.… I mean, yeah, you don't want to pay half of it in taxes, but thank God that you get the other half."

ON DOING A REUNION SHOW "What does that mean? Is it a movie of the week? I don't think I could do that. Can you imagine? *Friends: The Movie of the Week.* No, that's terrible."

LONDON
IRISH
CENTRE

MOM AND DAUGHTER "I listen to her feelings, not to try to fix it, but just to really hear her," says Cox of Coco, 15 (with ex David Arquette).

A BIRD IN HAND
Ross demonstrating the "friendly finger," his childhood invention that Monica calls "a way of giving the finger without actually having to give it."



THE ONLY ONE OF THE FRIENDS with a Ph.D., Ross Geller nonetheless has trouble grasping things that most people understand. Like teeth whiteners (he bleaches his smile so blindingly, he needs makeup to dull the effect). Or leather pants (don't wet them if you hope to get them back up, and for Pete's sake, don't add baby powder). Spray tanning ("I went to that tanning place," he says. "Was that place . . . the sun?" asks Chandler). Oh, and relationships. No girlfriend—especially Rachel Green—wants to hear you were with someone else because "we were on a break."

When *Friends* opens, Ross is morose that his wife—who is pregnant with their child—has left him for a woman. But being single again means he has another shot with the girl he had a crush on all through high school. He and Rachel are the series' central on-and-off and on-again romance. But alas he would divorce two more times, once from the British Emily, who, let's face it, had a legitimate gripe when Ross Freudian-slipped up and pledged his troth to "Rachel" during their vows, and then from Rachel whom he'd drunkenly wed in Las Vegas. "I know that I divorce a lot of women," he tells her. "Never thought I'd be divorcing you."

As played by David Schwimmer, Ross is a solid, grown-up presence for his buddies, for his sister and for Rachel. When she's pregnant with his child yet still doesn't want to get romantically involved with him again, he agrees to not date anyone else either so he is free toward the end of her pregnancy to dote on her cravings and needs. And yet he could get believably worked up about the smallest issues, as when someone (his boss, it turned out) stole his post-Thanksgiving sandwich from the museum lunchroom fridge. "That sandwich was the only good thing going on in my life!" he screamed to the gang in desperation. To be fair, it was a genius sandwich with an extra piece of gravy-soaked bread (the "moist-maker") in the middle. When he also screamed at the boss about the turkey sandwich, it got him briefly booted from the New York Museum of Prehistoric History. He took up teaching paleontology to college students, trying to earn their respect

R•O•S•S

THE PALEONTOLOGIST HAD DOZENS OF NERDY NEUROSES, BUT BENEATH THEM MONICA'S BIG BROTHER HAD A HEART THE SIZE OF T-REX

A MAN AND HIS MONKEY

Clockwise from top: Ross and Monica do "the Routine" for *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*; Marcel and the gang at the hospital after Ross's lab monkey/pet eats Scrabble tiles; the Holiday Armadillo explains Hanukkah to son Ben.

with a fake English accent.

Both insecure and controlling, sure, Ross could be a pill. At a low point over Rachel's relationship with the Italian Paolo, he kisses Chandler's mom. When Rachel finally realizes her dream of entering the fashion industry with a buyer's job at Bloomingdale's, he is dismissive and paranoid about her strictly platonic relationship with Mark, her handsome coworker. And Phoebe and Rachel were right: *Unagi* is indeed Japanese freshwater eel often found in sushi, not the state of total awareness he tells them he has cultivated through years of karate. On the other hand, he was genuinely kind and a well-intentioned dad to Ben. And has a man ever loved a lab monkey more?

Wary of having his heart broken again, Ross nearly lets Rachel go when she accepts a dream job at Louis Vuitton in Paris. He and Phoebe have clashed over evolution and auras in the past (he believes in the first, not the second), but he listens when she advises going after Rachel at the airport. This time he nails it, and Rachel gets off the plane. After 10 years, "we're done being stupid," he tells her. "This is it—unless we're on a break." Looooong pause. "Don't make jokes now."

ROSS: RELICS FROM HIS DATING PAST

FROM THE PILOT, THE NEW DIVORCÉ JUST WANTED TO BE MARRIED. THIS IS HIS JOURNEY TO HIS 'LOBSTER'

1. CAROL WILLICK (played by Anita Barone in episode 2 and Jane Sibbett thereafter) Ross's first wife and mother of his son Ben. Leaves him and marries Susan Bunch.

2. JULIE (Lauren Tom) Ross's romance with his grad school classmate comes just as Rachel finds she has feelings for him. Dumps her to be with Rachel.

3. CHLOE (Angela Featherstone) Copy-store clerk whose night with Ross leads to the first "break" with Rachel.

4. CAILIN (Laura Cayouette) Lasts half a date before Rachel's screaming date (Ben Stiller) distracts Ross.

5. BONNIE (Christine Taylor, top right) She has Ross enthralled until, with Rachel's encouragement, she shaves her head.

6. AMANDA (Laura Stepp) Ross thinks he is going on a date. Instead he is the babysitter. Does this count?

7. CHERYL (Rebecca Romijn) Paleontology Ph.D. student whose filthy apartment is too much for Ross.

9. EMILY WALTHAM (Helen Baxendale) Rachel's boss's niece, whom Ross takes to the opera as a favor to Rachel. The evening turns into a weekend in Vermont and, soon after, a very brief marriage.

10. ELIZABETH HORNSWOGGLE (Sara Rose Peterson) On their date Ross gets stuck in his leather pants.

11. JANICE (Maggie Wheeler) Chandler's ultra-nasal ex finds Ross's whining annoying. Over.

12. JEN (Samantha Smith) The "hot girl" Joey spots in a window of Ross's building has a single date with Ross.

13. HILLARY (Missi Pyle) Monica's coworker for whom Ross whitens his teeth.

14. JILL GREEN (Reese Witherspoon) Rachel's sister. He bows out, in deference to Rachel's feelings.

15. ELIZABETH STEVENS (Alexandra Holden, middle right) Ross's student at NYU; her dad (Bruce Willis) dates Rachel.

16. WHITNEY (Julia Campbell) Briefly dates Ross but goes back to the husband she'd been divorcing.

17. KRISTEN LEIGH (Gabrielle Union) Ross and Joey battle for her. She leaves in the middle of it.

18. MONA (Bonnie Somerville, left) They hit it off, but Ross's impending fatherhood complicates things.

19. KATIE (Rena Sofer) The baby-store clerk asks Ross out. Rachel nixes it quick.

20. CHARLIE WHEELER (Aisha Tyler, bottom right) Leaves Ross for her Nobel Prize-winning ex.

MY BAD! VERY BAD! After Ross says Rachel's name instead of Emily's during their wedding vows, Emily yanks her hand from his and hisses, "Just keep smiling" as they leave the altar. Then she punches him in the stomach.

SWINGERS Since daughter Emma loves the swings, Rachel says she will overcome her fear and ride them if Ross will hold a spider.

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

ENTHUSIASM BEHIND THE CAMERA TOO

DAVID SCHWIMMER PLAYED A KARDASHIAN AND HAS STARRED WITH LARRY DAVID

After Friends *ended, Schwimmer, now 52, voiced the role of Melman the giraffe in the first of four* Madagascar *movies. In 2016 he earned an Emmy nod for his portrayal of lawyer Robert Kardashian in* The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story. *He didn't have to stretch to play himself on* Curb Your Enthusiasm. *Soon he was back as a sitcom boyfriend in the* Will & Grace *reboot as Grace's love interest, the West Side Curmudgeon.*

FAVORITE EPISODE Season 2's "The One with the Prom Video." "For me it's the whole history, both comedically and emotionally, of the origins of the relationship between Ross and Rachel. Not only did we look completely different as teenagers, visually it was just really funny. But I think doing that as actors freed us up in a way—in particular, with Courteney wearing the fat suit—to tap into a part of ourselves that was very vulnerable and shy.... I was initially really resistant to the idea of a 'fro and mustache. Honestly, in my own real life I felt that goofy and ugly-looking in high school. I just had to trust the writers. All great comedy comes from pain.... One of my favorite lines ever is in that episode. When Monica's really fat in the video, she says, 'Well, the camera adds 10 lbs.,' and [Chandler] says, 'So how many cameras are actually on you?'"

ON THE END "We have kind of a group focus—a group hug—before we come out [onstage], and that was really, really tough to know it was the last time we were going to be doing that. The audience gave us a standing ovation before we even started. Everyone just lost it and had to go back into makeup."

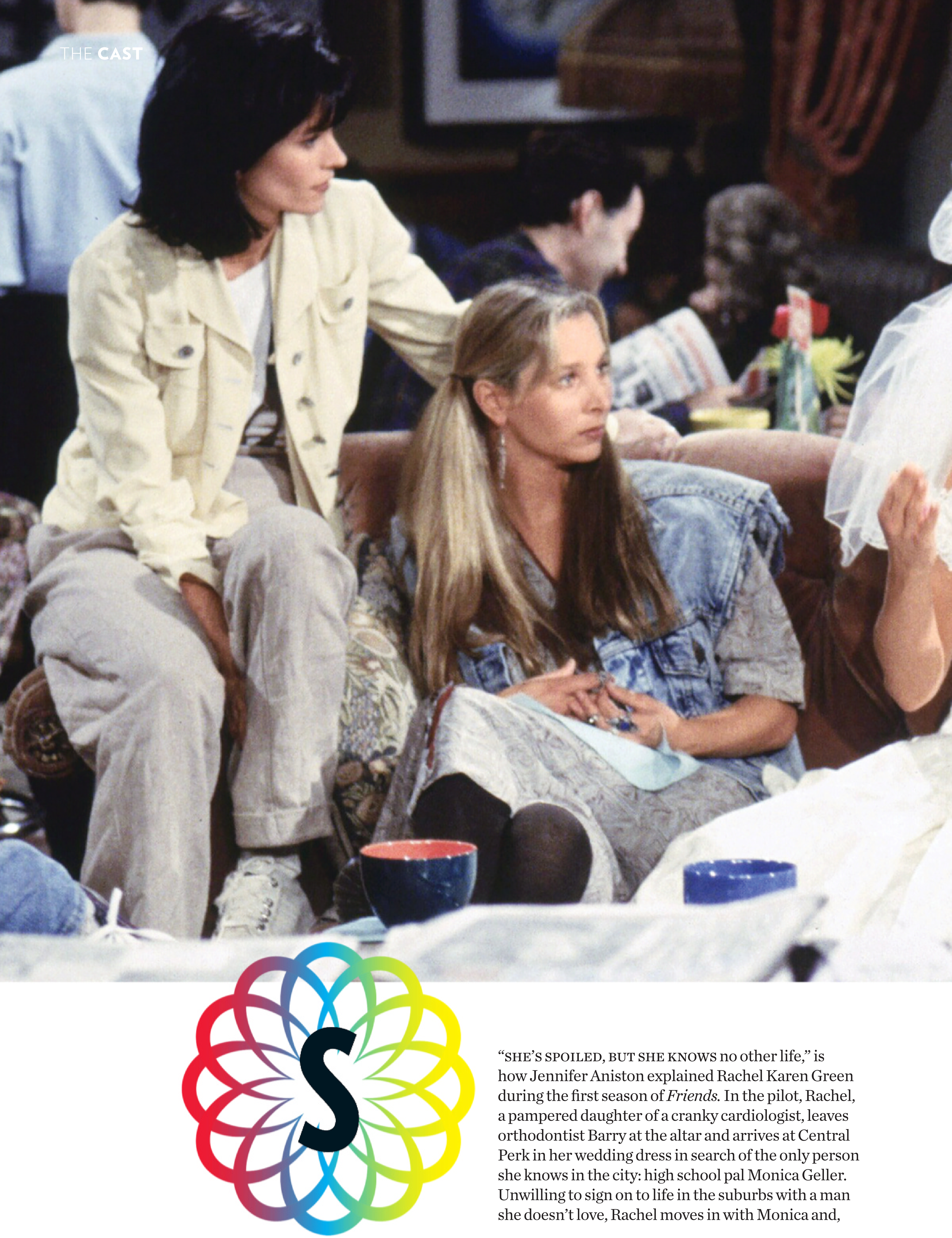
ON DOING A REUNION SHOW "I hate the idea of the reunion show, but if it meant I get to revisit the relationships and work with those writers and actors again, then that would be a good thing."

IF 'I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU' CAME ON THE RADIO, WOULD YOU LISTEN? "If I were alone, maybe. If I was not alone, no."

KEEPSAKE PROP "When they ripped up the street outside Central Perk, I got a chunk of it. It's in a little case in my library."

WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "All the questions about how much money we make."

ONSCREEN AND OFF
Top: Schwimmer at an L.A. benefit. Bottom: with Debra Messing during a 2018 stint on *Will & Grace*.



“SHE’S SPOILED, BUT SHE KNOWS no other life,” is how Jennifer Aniston explained Rachel Karen Green during the first season of *Friends.* In the pilot, Rachel, a pampered daughter of a cranky cardiologist, leaves orthodontist Barry at the altar and arrives at Central Perk in her wedding dress in search of the only person she knows in the city: high school pal Monica Geller. Unwilling to sign on to life in the suburbs with a man she doesn’t love, Rachel moves in with Monica and,

R•A•C•H•E•L

SPOILED BUT SURPRISINGLY FEARLESS, THE NEARLY MRS. BARRY FARBER (D.D.S.) CHOSE A NEW LIFE—AND FOUND LOVE

RUNAWAY BRIDE
Reasons Rachel left Barry at the altar: She was more turned on by a gravy boat. And: "How much Barry looks like Mr. Potato Head."

despite being broke and jobless, cuts up her father's credit cards. "Welcome to the real world! It sucks. You're gonna love it!" Monica assures her. "Wish me luck. I'm going to go get one of those 'job' things!" Rachel declares, but soon discovers she is the Central Perk's worst waitress. Thank goodness the coffee-shop manager Gunther is in love with her—she'll never be fired. "Everyone I know is either getting married, getting pregnant or getting promoted, and I'm getting coffee," she moans. "And it's not even for me!" So cosseted has she been from the mundaneness of making a living that when she gets her first paycheck, she asks, "Who is FICA, and why does he get all my money?"

Stealthily, though, Rachel's cluelessness fades, replaced by a growing confidence in her ability to navigate life and enter the fashion business. Goodbye, cappuccinos, hello, Bloomingdale's! Even before she earned herself a spot at Ralph Lauren, Rachel (and, by exten-

AT WORK AND PLAY

Clockwise from left: Rachel and Ross had sex for the first time at Ross's work, the New York Museum of Prehistoric History; designer Ralph Lauren as himself (with employees Rachel and Joanna Gleason); indulging Ross in "The One with the Princess Leia Fantasy."

sion, Aniston) was setting style. Her eponymous layered haircut (above left, created by Chris McMillan) was a worldwide fad. Her outfits inspired copycats. Rachel was America's TV sweetheart.

That designation, however, sometimes blinded viewers to what Aniston had from the very jump: comedy chops. Whether pinning Ross in the living room to prove she and Phoebe also have self-defense "unagi" or tackling Joey during a football game, Rachel went for it. "The last thing we think about is our looks, even though people think we do because our wardrobe and hair are so great," said Aniston in 1995.

Also great? Seeing Rachel come into her own. Perhaps of all the *Friends* characters, it is Rachel who changes the most over the course of 10 seasons. "If I can do my own laundry," the onetime princess told Ross in a busy laundromat early on, "there isn't anything I can't do!" (By season 10 she had moved so far from her early penniless existence that she dropped $1,000 on a hairless cat, the nightmare-inducing Mrs. Whiskerson.) Perhaps her biggest evolution was realizing that her soulmate might be that dorky guy who had a crush on her back in high school. Her relationship with Ross ebbed and flowed. It is arguable, but it does seem that they were on a break at least once. And when they broke up for real, it was so traumatic their friends cried. (And ate leg wax.) Then, during a drunken night in Las Vegas—oops!—she married him. They divorced.

When, after a one-night stand with Ross—"the perfect way to say goodbye," noted Rachel—she became pregnant, she did not become unhinged with daughter Emma's arrival; she simply morphed into a typically busy working mom sharing parenting duties with Ross. (First, however—she got engaged to Joey.) But it's Ross with whom she shares the great early parenting moments: Both were exultant when their child chortles her first real laugh to Sir Mix-a-Lot's "Baby Got Back." She was on her way to Paris and a new life without Ross when she realized her mistake.

Rachel got off the plane. "This is where I want to be," she told Ross. "I don't want to mess this up again." The central, defining romance of *Friends* ended happily ever after.

RACHEL'S MEN

FROM A SUAVE ITALIAN TO A BELGIAN MARTIAL-ARTS STAR, RACHEL HAD MANY MENFOLK BEFORE GETTING IT RIGHT WITH THE ONE WHO WAS THERE ALL ALONG

● ● ● ● ●

1. BARRY FARBER (played by Mitchell Whitfield, left) The orthodontist whom she leaves at the altar. They hook up once more when he's dating her erstwhile maid of honor.

2. PAOLO (Cosimo Fusco) Italian owner of a cat Rachel finds in their building during a blackout. Even though he hits on Phoebe, she rebounds with him when Ross is dating Julie.

3. CARL (Tommy Blaze) A blowhard who spends his one date going on about Ed Begley Jr.

4. MICHAEL (Arye Gross) The divorcé suggested she get closure with Ross.

5. RUSS (Schwimmer, credited as Snaro) After Ross, Rachel dates his dentist doppelgänger.

6. JEAN-CLAUDE VAN DAMME (Himself) Both Monica and Rachel had a turn with the Belgian, whom they met while visiting Marcel the monkey on the set of *Outbreak 2: The Virus Takes Manhattan.*

9. MARK ROBINSON (Steven Eckholdt) Rachel dates her former Bloomingdale's coworker until she realizes she's only doing it to hurt Ross. He reappears in season 10 with a Paris job offer.

10. TOMMY (Ben Stiller) A rage-filled bully who went off on Joey and Chandler's duck.

11. JOSH (Brian Smith) Rachel used the college soccer player to get back at Ross for dating Amanda. He stole from her.

12. JOSHUA BURGIN (Tate Donovan, whom Aniston had dated): Rachel's divorced crush was put off by her seeming rush to get married.

13. DAVE (Zen Gesner) A setup by Monica. Never seen again.

14. DANNY (George Newbern) That the hairy "Yeti" from downstairs still took baths with his adult sister proved too much.

15. PAUL STEVENS (Bruce Willis, top right) The tough-guy father of Ross's girlfriend Elizabeth couldn't stop crying.

16. TAG JONES (Eddie Cahill, middle right) Rachel's young assistant at Ralph Lauren. Really, she shouldn't have.

17. KASH FORD (Johnny Messner) Joey's *Days of Our Lives* colleague was interested in Rachel. Then they took the Staten Island Ferry, where it ended when he found out she was pregnant.

18. JOEY TRIBBIANI (Matt Le Blanc, bottom right) Joey first hits on Rachel, still in her wedding dress, in the pilot. They are later roommates and accidental fiancés (briefly) before a season 10 dalliance that never progresses past kissing because they realize they are too good at being friends.

19. GAVIN MITCHELL (Dermot Mulroney, left) Rachel's Ralph Lauren colleague came to her birthday party and kissed her on the balcony, but he could see that her relationship with Ross was too deep and too complicated for an outsider to overcome.

OH, BABY

Above: After Monica and Chandler's wedding, Phoebe tricks Rachel into revealing that she is pregnant, the result of one night with Ross. Below: Rachel and Ross gave their daughter the name that Monica had decided on at age 14 for her own future child: Emma. "Take it," she said. "Nothing goes with Bing, so I'm screwed."

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

COMING FULL CIRCLE

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER *FRIENDS* ENDED, SHE'S HEADED BACK TO TV

Aniston celebrated turning 50 in February with a party attended by her Friends *pals and friendly ex Brad Pitt. In June she reunited with* Just Go with It *costar Adam Sandler for the crime caper* Murder Mystery. *This fall she'll team with Reese Witherspoon, who played Rachel's sister Jill, for Apple TV's* The Morning Show, *about news anchors. Single since 2017, Aniston, a pal recently told* People, *"is just excited about the future." Still, she might be most likely to be up for revisiting the past in a* Friends *reunion. As she told Ellen DeGeneres in June, "Why not?"*

FAVORITE EPISODE Season 8's "The One Where Rachel Has a Baby (Parts I and II)," in which Rachel gives birth to Emma and Joey accidentally proposes to her with Ross's ring. "Not only was it very powerful for me, it was just funny—great characters coming in and out of our hospital room. Debi Mazar kept calling her husband a rat bastard. And then Maggie Wheeler [Janice] came in.... It felt like a farce. That's what I love about *Friends*, those situations of slightly suspended reality. I love when Schwimmer and I have stuff together, it's always dreamy.... The birth was challenging since I've never done it before. I've only watched girlfriends, so I just copied them. It was also hard to play the postpartum sadness: "Oh, I have a baby, and I don't have Ross." I always have a hard time playing, as I call them, 'saccharine-y' moments. [But] I was really happy with how it came out."

ON THE END "Everyone took as much time as we could throughout the show. Usually we're like, 'Are we going to finish by 8 p.m.? You wanna go do something?' We just kept trying to prolong, and [the producers] would come up and say, 'We don't have any notes,' and we were like, 'What? Are you sure? You don't want to do that again?' And then the inevitable last scene arrived, and ouch. I don't even know how to say it—just a big ouch."

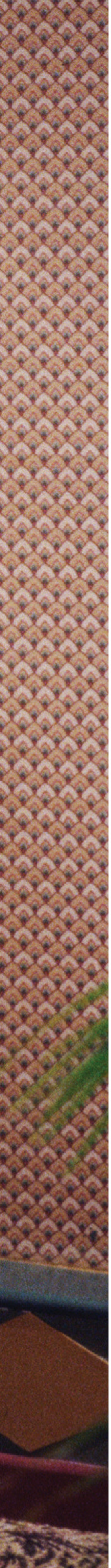
LAST TIME YOU WENT INTO A COFFEEHOUSE "Yesterday, in London."

WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "If you can think of one, tell me."

KEEPSAKE PROP "When they broke the coffeehouse down, I called the neon cup of coffee that has steam coming out of it right by the door. That's mine. Don't even think they're going to put that in the Smithsonian."

NOW AND JEN
Top: at a 2018 American Film Institute tribute to pal George Clooney. Above: with Adam Sandler in *Murder Mystery*.

SANDAL EPIC
When his Las Vegas movie gets shut down, Joey finds work as a Caesar's Palace gladiator. "Love your condoms, my man," says Chandler.



J•O•E•Y

THE AFFABLE ACTOR WHO LOVES WOMEN AND SANDWICHES—NOT NECESSARILY IN THAT ORDER

HOW *YOU* DOIN'? IF THERE'S a better pickup line in the history of television, we don't know it. Surprisingly, Joey Tribbiani says his signature phrase fewer than 20 times throughout the entire 236 episodes of *Friends,* and the first time isn't until season 4 when he's counseling Rachel how to ask Joshua out on a date.

"How I do it is," he says, "I look a woman up and down and say, 'Hey, how *you* doin'?' " The women are skeptical until he turns the charm on Phoebe. She responds with a nervous giggle, and a catchphrase is born.

Joey comes by his confidence naturally, having been raised as the only boy in an Italian household with two loving parents, seven adoring sisters and a nonna who still does his laundry. It's the kind of confidence that lets him shrug off women who say no to him (Kate), hit him (Katie), dump him (Ursula) and cheat on him (Kathy, Charlie).

He also spends most of the series auditioning for acting jobs, resulting in the kind of rejection that would send a less secure guy back to his dark bedroom with only Hugsy His Bedtime Penguin Pal. (How do you lose a job as Al Pacino's butt double?) But Joey survives by doing infomercials for milk-carton openers, public-service subway ads for VD testing, and plays that are so bad he thinks "abysmal" is a compliment.

And then he lands his big break: the role of Dr. Drake Ramoray on *Days of Our Lives* (a clever wink to soap opera fans because Jennifer Aniston's father, John Aniston, starred as evil Victor Kiriakis on the NBC soap—a role he still has today at age 86). Unfortunately Joey loses the gig after telling *Soap Opera Digest* he makes up his own dialogue, and the writers retaliate by sending Drake down an elevator shaft.

Never one to stay down for long, Joey parlays the experience into a job teaching soap opera acting where he relays his "smell the fart" technique and advises his eager students to secretly pull the hair out of their thighs with tweezers if they have to cry. Hard to believe he didn't win that soap opera award.

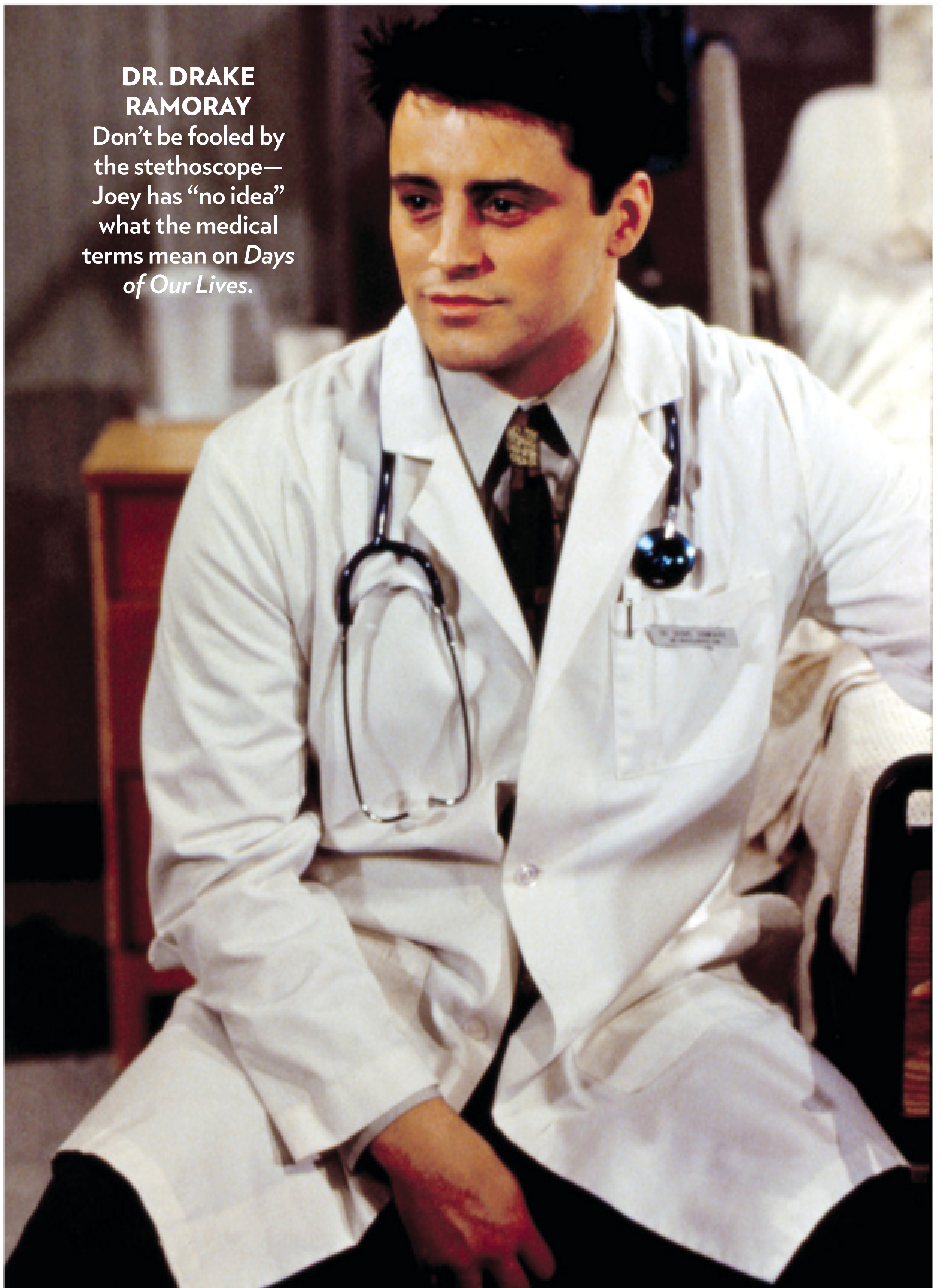
When not getting and losing jobs and women, Joey really takes that "I'll be there for you" thing to heart. After Phoebe pretends to be pregnant at Monica and Chandler's wedding (to cover for Rachel), Joey procures an engagement ring and drops to one knee. Phoebe accepts. "I think he

CANOE FEEL THE LOVE?
Joey encourages Chandler (Matthew Perry) to make the best of it after they get robbed and are left with only a canoe.

would notice when you didn't have a baby in nine months," scoffs Monica. Responds Phoebe: "It's Joey!"

Yes, he confuses the Met (the opera) with the Mets (the ball team) and insists there are 56 states and thinks "Je de floop flee" is French, but Joey possesses a sweet wisdom the others don't. When the gang make fun of his male purse, he says, "Just because you don't understand something doesn't make it wrong." When Rachel frets about how much time has passed since Tag broke up with his girlfriend, Joey says it's a "moo point" if Tag doesn't want to date Rachel in the first place. Huh? "Like a cow's opinion. It doesn't matter. It's moo."

Moving on... when Chandler finds out Janice is cheating on him with her ex-husband, Joey tells his roommate that the right thing to do is step aside because they have a child together. He explains softly, "They're like a family."



DR. DRAKE RAMORAY
Don't be fooled by the stethoscope—Joey has "no idea" what the medical terms mean on *Days of Our Lives.*

THE DAYS OF HIS (LOVE) LIFE

THAT HE WAS THE ONLY UNCOUPLED FRIEND AT THE END OF THE SERIES WASN'T FOR LACK OF PUTTING HIMSELF OUT THERE

1. URSULA BUFFAY (Lisa Kudrow, above, top) Joey dates Phoebe's twin in season 1, but she soon ghosts him. Phoebe then poses as Ursula so she can break up with him gently.

2. KATE MILLER (Dina Meyer) Costarring in a bad play means Joey has to work extra hard to woo his costar, the first woman ever not to return his affection. "Is this what it's like to be you?" he asks Chandler.

3. KATHY (Paget Brewster, above, bottom) The actress kisses Chandler while dating Joey, causing a rift between them.

3. KATIE (Soleil Moon Frye) Joey is used to being hit *on* but not hit, so the excitable Punky Brewster star who kept punching him had to go.

4. JANINE LECROIX (Elle Macpherson, above, right) After Chandler decides to move in with Monica, Joey places an ad for "female roommate, non-smoker, non-ugly." The Australian dancer soon moves in with her potpourri (and her thong), and it's game on. They split when Janine declares she can't stand Monica and Chandler.

5. ERIN (Kristin Davis, right) One of the few girls to turn the tables on Joey, Erin dumps him by claiming she's a loner.

6. CECILIA MONROE (Susan Sarandon) Joey's return to *Days of Our Lives* means Cecilia is out of a job because Drake Ramoray is getting her character's brain (don't ask). Their fling comes to an end when Cecilia lands a film in Guadalajara. "The airport?" says Joey. "No, that's LaGuardia."

7. KRISTEN (Gabrielle Union) A hot girl moves to the neighborhood, so naturally Joey and Ross fight over her. They both lose.

8. CHARLIE (Aisha Tyler) The beautiful paleontologist kisses Joey at his Soap Opera Party but realizes she has more in common with Ross.

9. RACHEL (Jennifer Aniston) The season 9 cliff-hanger features Joey and Rachel kissing in Barbados. They decide not to pursue a romance in season 10 when Ross keeps insisting he's "fine!" (Translation: not fine.)

10. SARAH (Annie Parisse) Put those french fries back, because "Joey doesn't share food!"

SO LONG, ESTELLE
Right: The funeral for Joey's agent Estelle (June Gable, pictured) featured her only two clients: Joey and Al Zebooker (E.J. Callahan), aka "the guy who eats paper," who then ate Joey's speech.

THE SPINOFF
Below: *Joey,* the two-season spinoff, followed his move to L.A. to be with his sister Gina (Drea de Matteo). "It tried to make Joey grow up, and I think that was a huge mistake," said executive producer Kevin Bright.

JOEY IN L.A.

HIS FUTURE WASN'T SO BRIGHT

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

HOW'S HE DOIN'? JUST FINE

AFTER PLAYING HIMSELF (SORT OF), MATT LEBLANC HAS ANOTHER NETWORK HIT

As much as people loved Joey Tribbiani, they didn't love Joey, the two-season Friends *spinoff. LeBlanc rebounded, playing a hilariously jerky version of himself on Showtime's* Episodes *(2011-17), which earned him a Golden Globe. Dad to a daughter, Marina, 15 (with ex-wife Melissa McKnight), he's now in his fourth season playing a contractor on CBS's* Man with a Plan.

FAVORITE EPISODE "The One with the Embryos." "The pace was great. It was really fun to watch characters rely on their history together to succeed. It felt like a complete world. It was like, 'Okay, what was Monica's nickname when she played field hockey?' Right away, Joey knew it: 'Big Fat Goalie.' It was just all this inside character stuff that was fun to be a part of—maybe because my team won.... I have nothing against the other actors who come in, but when it's just the six of us, those are always the best scenes.

ON THE END "I was fortunate enough to be in the last coffeehouse scene ever shot. I remember Matthew Perry coming down, sitting on the couch saying, 'Can you write me into the scene?' I leaned over to Lisa and Jennifer, and I said, 'Do you realize this is the last coffeehouse scene?' I probably should have done that afterward, because they both started crying, so everyone had to go get their makeup touched up.... It's the saddest feeling I've ever experienced combined with the most wonderful feeling of accomplishment. It's like a punch in the face with a kiss. Or a kick in the balls with a back rub. It's really weird; I don't know how to describe it."

ON DOING A REUNION SHOW "Yeah, if it was the right set of circumstances and everybody was in."

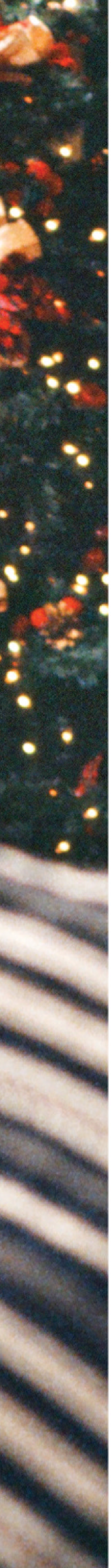
LAST TIME SOMEONE ASKED IF THE SIX OF YOU WERE ALL FRIENDS "The last time I left the house."

BEST PERK "Sat with Bill Clinton for about an hour in the Oval Office with my mother and fiancée. That was kind of cool."

WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "When you sign the tax thing. You look at that number and you go, 'Jesus. Really? I think there's a typo here. The decimal point is clearly in the wrong place.'"

GROWN-UP ISSUES "The problems are relatable," LeBlanc says of *Man with a Plan,* on which he plays Adam, a dad of three married to Andi (Liza Snyder). "The kids are brutally honest."

THE SOUND OF MUSIC Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) always invites the gang to sing along to classics like "Smelly Cat."



P•H•O•E•B•E

LONG IN SEARCH OF HER BIRTH MOM AND DISTANT DAD, THE STREET-SMART YET GUILELESS MASSEUSE MAKES HER FRIENDS HER FAMILY

PHOEBE BUFFAY IS THE QUIRKY outlier of the latte lovers at Central Perk. While we get prom videos as a window onto the others' pasts, Phoebe lets bits of her unusual background drip out in tiny bombshells she drops into conversation. Her mother killed herself after her stepfather went to prison. She was living in a burned-out Buick LeSabre at age 14. The plucky teen survived by playing guitar and mugging nerdy kids for their lunch money (sorry, Ross!). She was married to an ice dancer. She learned to box when she was staying at the YMCA and, she tells Joey, "some of the young men weren't acting Christian enough." It wasn't all bad, of course. Her grandmother used to make her great chocolate-chip cookies. (Only when Monica asks for the recipe as an engagement gift does Pheebs learn her family secret is printed on every package of Nestlé Toll House chocolate chips.)

After stints as a phone-sex operator, sombrero-maker and funeral caterer, Phoebe becomes a licensed massage therapist and invents an oath ("No fooling around with clients and always be prepared"). "She was fully committed to 'It's okay!' and plowing through it," said Phoebe's portrayer, Lisa Kudrow, in 2012. "She doesn't feel sorry for herself at all."

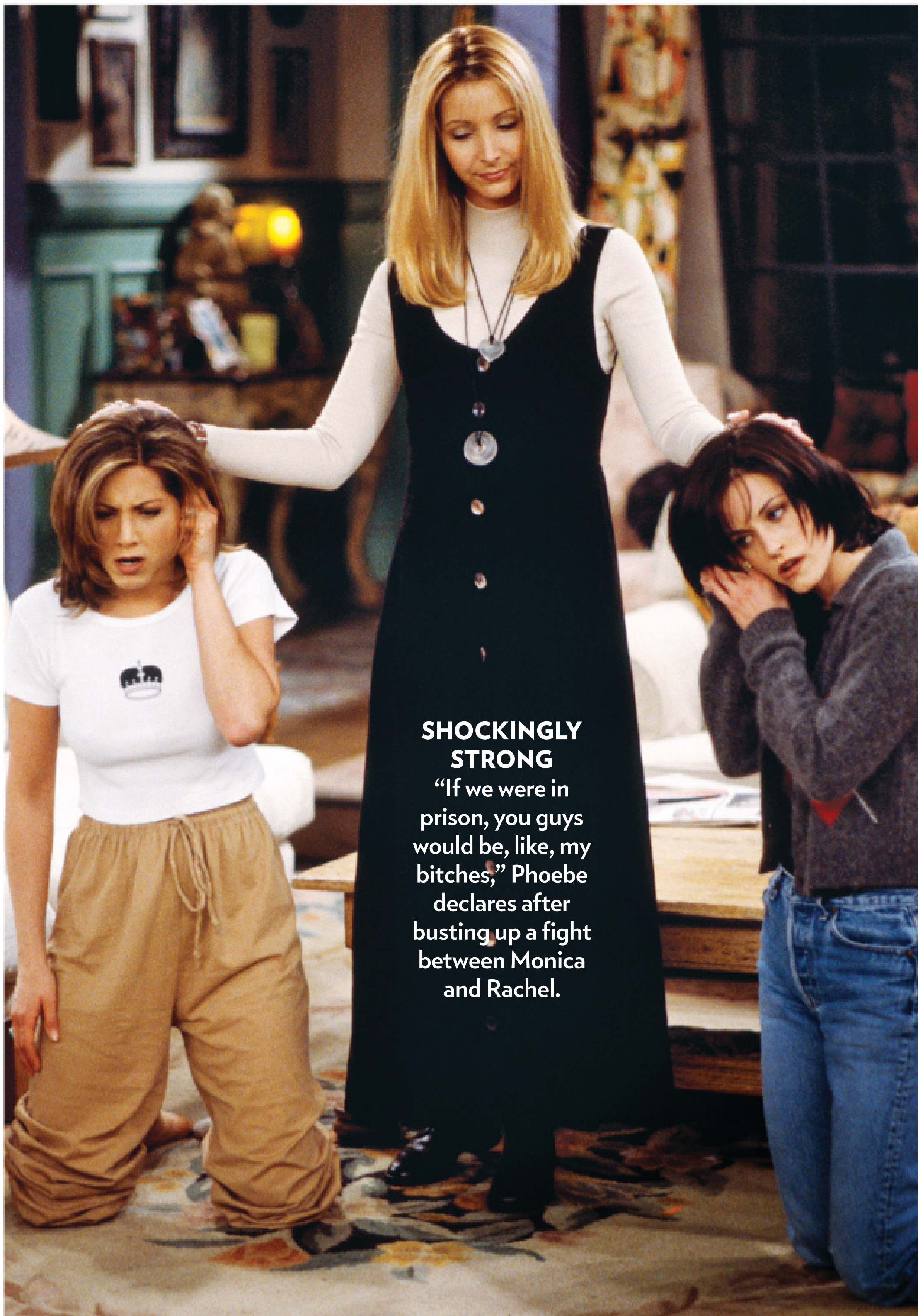
Nonconfrontational (she secretly moves out of Monica's apartment by taking one piece of furniture at a time), she later lives with the mysterious unseen roommate "Denise," then Rachel and then Gary the cop (Michael Rapaport) for one day. A chirping bird wakes them up, and he shoots it.

Her early abandonment plays out through the series as the relentlessly upbeat Phoebe searches for relatives to supplant her missing family. When she connects with half brother Frank Jr., she's ready to grant him a really big favor and carries his and his wife Alice's babies. (The story line was written to cover Kudrow's pregnancy. The idea that Santa costume pants were maternity wear was all Phoebe. "Look, there's a list of baby names in the pocket. These are 'good' and these are 'bad.' ") Holding the newborn triplets, Phoebe tells them she secretly wants to take them home but will settle for being their favorite aunt. "I know Alice's sister has a pool, but you lived in me," she says as all four of them cry. Phoebe being Phoebe, she snaps out of it and high-fives the babies before handing them over to Frank and Alice and settling back into her regular life.

PHOTO BOMB
When Ross shows off a new purchase, Phoebe learns the picture she thinks is of her dad is just "the guy that comes in the frame."

It's a life of notable contradictions. She speaks several languages (including French, which she learned with three friends "behind a Dumpster"). And yet when she visits Monica at work, she doesn't know the meaning of "sous-chef." She's a vegetarian who falls in love with a fur coat and almost eats veal served by her future fiancé's parents. And if all that makes her sound flaky, she'd be the first to agree. "That's true," Phoebe responds to Rachel and Monica when they try to insult her. "I am flaky!"

Mike Hannigan, a lawyer turned piano player, is the guy who embraces all that. (And comes along just as Phoebe realizes she is in her 30s and has never had a long-term relationship.) They meet when Joey offers to set Phoebe up with "my friend Mike," though no such person exists; Joey pulls a stranger out of Central Perk and into their double date. It's just crazy enough to work. By their 10th-season wedding vows, Mike is beaming at his bride: "Phoebe . . . you are so wonderfully weird."



SHOCKINGLY STRONG
"If we were in prison, you guys would be, like, my bitches," Phoebe declares after busting up a fight between Monica and Rachel.

PHOEBE'S BUFFET

THE BOHEMIAN ENJOYS A SMORGASBORD FROM SCIENTIST TO ICE DANCER BEFORE MEETING MIKE

1. DAVID (played by Hank Azaria) "The Scientist Guy" captures Phoebe's heart in season 1, but his job in Minsk derails their romance. When he's finally ready to propose in season 9, it's a *nyet* from her—she is serious about someone else.

2. ROGER (Fisher Stevens, right) A shrink who couldn't stand her friends? Analyze this: He had to go.

3. DUNCAN (Steve Zahn) Phoebe's Canadian green-card husband surfaces in season 2. She believed he was gay, but he comes out as straight and asks for a divorce to marry another woman.

4. ROB (Chris Isaak) The library worker hires Phoebe to sing to children, but she gets a little too real with a tune about their grandmothers dying, and another chapter closes.

5. RYAN (Charlie Sheen, top right) The dashing naval man hits town, but he and Phoebe spend their time scratching the wrong itch after they come down with chicken pox.

6. MALCOLM (David Arquette) Courteney Cox's then-boyfriend plays a sad sack who is stalking Phoebe's twin sister, Ursula. What could possibly go wrong when Phoebe dates him?

7. ROBERT (Markus Flanagan) The guy who wears loose shorts and no underwear elicits Gunther's best line of the series: "Put the mouse back in the house."

8. SERGEI (Jim Pirri) Phoebe meets a foreign diplomat while giving "free massages," but Monica runs off with his translator, so that's the end of that.

9. and 10. VINCE & JASON (Matt Battaglia and Robert Gant) Torn between a hunky fireman and a sensitive kindergarten teacher, Phoebe tries to date both. It backfires.

11. GARY THE COP (Michael Rapaport) They meet cute the usual way: She finds a police badge and impersonates a cop; he uses her fingerprints to access her arrest record and find her "last known address" (Monica's place) to ask her out.

12. KYLE (David Sutcliffe) The guy who "Hums While He Pees" doesn't last long.

13. TIM (Kevin Rahm) Monica's needy sous-chef is dumped by Phoebe and fired by Monica.

14. ERIC (Sean Penn, middle right) Dating a guy who was engaged to Ursula doesn't have a "super" ending, either.

15. PARKER (Alec Baldwin, bottom right) Her date to a party at the Gellers' was too cheerful even for Phoebe. "You're like Santa Claus…on Prozac…in Disneyland…getting laid!"

BABY LOVE
After Phoebe gives birth to her brother's triplets, they share a tender moment. "Everyone said labor was the hardest thing I'd ever have to do, but they were wrong," she tells Leslie, Frank Jr. Jr. and "Baby Girl" Chandler. "This is." She thanks them for being "the most fun" before giving them up to their parents.

PRINCESS BANANA-HAMMOCK WEDS
"Growing up, I didn't have a regular family like everybody else," Phoebe tells Mike (Paul Rudd). "But I'm standing here today knowing that I have everything I'm ever going to need. You are my family."

Jeffrey's
Flowers

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

THE *COMEBACK* QUEEN

LISA KUDROW HAS PAVED HER OWN COMEDY PATH

From the moment she set down Phoebe's guitar, the California native stayed busy acting and producing projects like Web Therapy, The Comeback, *which earned four Emmy nods, and* Who Do You Think You Are?, *a show that traces family trees. Seen most recently in the film* Booksmart, *Kudrow has been married since 1995 to French ad exec Michel Stern. She admits sending their son Julian (now 21) off to college was "hard." Also hard? Leaving* Friends. *Here, her thoughts as it ended.*

FAVORITE EPISODE Season 5's "The One Hundredth," in which Phoebe gives birth to triplets. "There's the Ross-Rachel story and Monica-Chandler and Joey-Rachel, but Phoebe usually isn't that instrumental in driving the main story, so it was nice that Phoebe could play such a big part in something as momentous as the 100th episode.... Phoebe had a line, 'I don't see three kids coming out of your vagina!' And everyone was like, 'Eh, "vagina," I don't know, isn't there anything else?' One of the girls is like, 'Well, I say hoo hoo,' and LeBlanc goes, 'What about [inappropriate slang here]?' That's awful, but it made me laugh so hard. Then just as a joke, Matthew was like, 'I dare you to say it!,' and I said, 'I will!,' and he goes, 'You can't say it. There's an audience.' And then Jennifer's like, 'Oh, say it, I'll give you $200.' There's five of them pledging $200. Leading up to it I couldn't get the line out because I kept cracking up. Finally I said it. It was so satisfying because the audience just shrieked. That was one thing that I'm the most proud of because it just took so much nerve."

ON THE END "I don't know when I've cried that much. Yeah, I can talk to Courteney, Jennifer, Matt, Matthew, and David, but it's still not Monica and Rachel, and Joey, Chandler and Ross. I just bawled—just heaved because they're just gone."

ON DOING A REUNION SHOW "No, I don't think so. I don't know how it could be any good at all."

LAST TIME YOU WENT INTO A COFFEEHOUSE "Ten years. Does Starbucks count? Then it's been like two years."

KEEPSAKE PROP "All the rings Phoebe ever wore, I've got 'em."

WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "That we're done."

THE GROWN-UP ROLES Kudrow plays a mom in the 2019 hit *Booksmart* opposite Will Forte as the dad. "I was always a huge fan," said Forte at the film's opening. "She's supercool."

C•H•A•N•D•L•E•R

HATES DOGS AND IRISH JIGS, LOVES THE CHICK AND THE DUCK. LOVES HIS FRIENDS MORE. BEHIND THE SARCASM, MR. BING IS A BIG SOFTIE

FOWL PLAY
"Chicks don't swim," says Chandler after Joey gifts his roommate with the bird. (Chandler came home with the duck after trying to return the chick.)

FOR CHANDLER BING, sarcasm isn't just a form of humor—it's a self-protective way of life. On his third nipple: "It opens the entrance to the magical land of Narnia." On women: "Until I was 25, I thought the only response to 'I love you' was, 'Oh, crap.' " And when Monica, in their last moments of being *just friends,* notes how efficiently he jumps under the covers and peels off his clothes, he responds: "It bodes well for me that speed impresses you."

Chandler's humor masks a painful past as the only child of Charles and Nora Bing, who, when Chandler was 9 years old, ruined Thanksgiving by announcing they were divorcing. He was then sent to an all-boys' school (where he learned to smoke). In college he met Ross, and they formed a band called Way/No Way, which sadly underscored their luck with the ladies: no way. He's a loyal friend who, until he gets serious with Monica, enjoys his longest relationship with long-term roomie Joey (and has the garish gold "buddy" bracelet to prove it). Things turn around for "the Boy Who Hates Thanksgiving" (as Monica's mom calls him) in season 4, when—after fizzled romances with Janice and Kathy—Monica knocks on his hotel-room door in London and they wind up in bed. The

HE'S GOT YOUR BACK
"I am your friend, and I am not going to let you do this," says Chandler, resorting to drastic measures to keep Ross from going over to "borrow juice" while Rachel is on a date with her Bloomingdale's buddy Mark. "Okay, man? It's over." For now.

two date secretly through most of season 5, with Monica slowly introducing Chandler to an "adult relationship" where they can have a fight, work through it and stay together. The guy who once balked at giving Janice a drawer—and faked a move to Yemen rather than break it off like a grown-up— becomes an ace boyfriend. (He does try to put a traffic sign that says "merge" over their bed—Monica vetoes that.) Besides marriage and their kids Jack and Erica Bing, the union helps give Chandler the confidence to quit his job in statistical analysis and data reconfiguration to pursue a career in advertising. Chandler's evolution, though, goes only so far. When Rachel needs help with something, he admits, "I'm not good with the advice. Can I interest you in a sarcastic comment?"

TWO MEN AND A BABY
Joey and Chandler babysit Ross's son Ben and, while using him as a prop to chat up women, leave the infant on a city bus. High jinks ensue.

THE ROAD TO MONICA

DESPITE HIS DECLARATION THAT HE'S GOING TO 'DIE ALONE,' CHANDLER KEEPS BUSY BEFORE THAT FATEFUL ENCOUNTER WITH HIS FUTURE WIFE IN LONDON

1. JANICE LITMAN-GORALNIK NEE HOSENSTEIN (played by Maggie Wheeler) Why can't Chandler break up with this girl? Phoebe does it for him in season 1 ("I'm free!" he screams). He's still avoiding her in season 10 when he feigns affection to keep her from buying the house next door. "One of us has got to be strong," declares Janice who kisses him and exits—finally.

2. AURORA (Sofia Milos) The Italian free spirit captivates Chandler, until he learns she has a husband and two boyfriends. "Lose the other guys," he begs. *Arrivederci*, Aurora.

3. NINA BOOKBINDER (Jennifer Grant) She's an employee of Chandler's who screws up his WENUS (Weekly Estimated Net Usage Statistics). When ordered to fire her—because this is long before #MeToo—he dates her instead.

4. MARY ANGELA TRIBBIANI (Holly Gagnier) Chandler drinks too much at a party and can't remember which one of Joey's seven sisters he kissed. After learning it was Mary Angela, he goes to dinner at the Tribbianis and ends up kissing Mary Therese. "This is so bad," he admits.

5. GINGER (Sherilyn Fenn, above left) Joey, who dated her earlier, lets Chandler know she has a prosthetic leg. As he struggles with the info, Ginger learns Chandler has a third nipple and dumps him.

6. JOANNA (Alison La Placa, above top right) Chandler agrees to date Rachel's boss in season 3 to help her career. Despite Joanna being a "big, dull dud," Chandler ends every encounter with "I'll call you!" which leads Joanna to think he'll call her. He ends the relationship in season 4 after an office sex romp leaves him handcuffed to a cabinet. Awkward!

7. KATHY (Paget Brewster, above bottom right) Chandler falls for—and kisses—Joey's girlfriend, causing a serious rift between the roommates. In an effort to get Joey to forgive him, Chandler agrees to be locked in a box on Thanksgiving. Ultimately Kathy cheats on him, just as she had on Joey.

8. MARJORIE (Christina Moore) Chandler accompanies Joey to a sleep clinic in season 4 where they meet a girl who talks in her sleep. "What a coincidence," says Chandler. "I listen in my sleep."

A FINE RECLINE
Joey surprises his roommate with new Barcaloungers for the apartment after *Days of Our Lives* picks up his option. Chandler's response: "Sweet mother of all that is good and pure."

FLIGHT OF SHAME
"Maybe it's best we never got to do it again," Monica tells Chandler on the plane home from London, after they've agreed not to continue their affair stateside. "Technically we're over international waters," he notes hopefully.

THE EXIT INTERVIEW

BEYOND ONE-LINERS

MATTHEW PERRY HAS FOCUSED ON HIS CAREER—AND HEALTH

A guest on The West Wing *even before* Friends *wrapped, Perry has rarely been off TV; he was last a regular on* CBS's The Odd Couple. *He also wrote a play,* The End of Longing, *which ran in London and Off-Broadway. The role he created for himself was Jack, a quick wit who happened to be an alcoholic. Perry has been forthcoming about his own addiction struggles, and for a time ran a sober-living house in Malibu. Here are his series finale memories from a conversation with* EW:

FAVORITE EPISODE Season 1's "The One with the Blackout," in which Chandler gets stuck in an ATM vestibule with model Jill Goodacre during a power outage. "The interesting thing about that episode was I didn't speak much; it was mostly in voice-over. We prerecorded what I said, and I had to react. Let's face it: Jill Goodacre is hot, so it wasn't that difficult.… I [remember] spitting my gum out and it stuck to the wall. It was my choice to just stay frozen in fear and embarrassment.… What was great about that night was that I was also able to watch the other three-quarters of the show, which was these five great actors doing ensemble work that was amazing. This was the first time I realized, 'Gee, this is really clicking.'"

ON THE END "You know when you're just on the verge of tears? I felt that way for about five hours. It was a combination of a celebration of a job well done for 10 years by all of us and also just a huge sadness that the experience of our lifetime was coming to a close."

COOLEST PERK "Getting to work with Sean Penn was amazing. Unfortunately that entire episode I was dressed as a pink bunny."

WORST THING ABOUT MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS PER EPISODE "The worst part of it was feeling a little guilty, like, 'Wait a minute, I'm going here to do something I love.'"

KEEPSAKE PROP "There's a cookie jar that has a clock on it that was over the fridge. One time I asked Lisa Kudrow, 'What time is it?' and she looked up at that to tell me the time, and we all laughed really hard, so I made arrangements to give it to her."

IF 'I'LL BE THERE FOR YOU' CAME ON THE RADIO, WOULD YOU LISTEN? "No, I always very quickly turn that down."

GETTING SERIOUS
Perry played Ted Kennedy in the 2017 miniseries *The Kennedys: After Camelot*, which he also produced.

SEASON 5: THE UNNATURAL ALLIANCE
After his split from Emily, Ross rebounds with Janice, who dumps him for being whiny. "I annoy *you*?" says Ross. Said actress Maggie Wheeler: Janice "comes from a very loving place."

OH. MY. GOD. JANICE!

THE ONLY NON-FRIEND TO APPEAR IN ALL 10 SEASONS, JANICE LITMAN-GORALNIK POPPED UP AT THE MOST INOPPORTUNE MOMENTS TO LOVE AND TORTURE CHANDLER—AND DELIGHT US

SEASON 1: THE SURPRISE
After dumping Janice (Maggie Wheeler), Chandler ends up on a blind date with her. “Happy Valentine’s Day,” she coos in bed.

SEASON 2: THE ONLINE MYSTERY
Chandler agrees to meet a woman from an Internet chat room. Again, it’s Janice, now unhappily married. “Oh my God,” says the gang after Chandler kisses her.

SEASON 3: THE GIRLFRIEND
Separated and dating Chandler, Janice plans a “day of fun” to make Joey like her. By the season’s end she’s back with her husband.

SEASON 4: THE YEMENI MOVER
Chandler runs into divorced Janice at the nail salon (with Rachel), starts seeing her again and has to fake a transfer to Yemen to shake her.

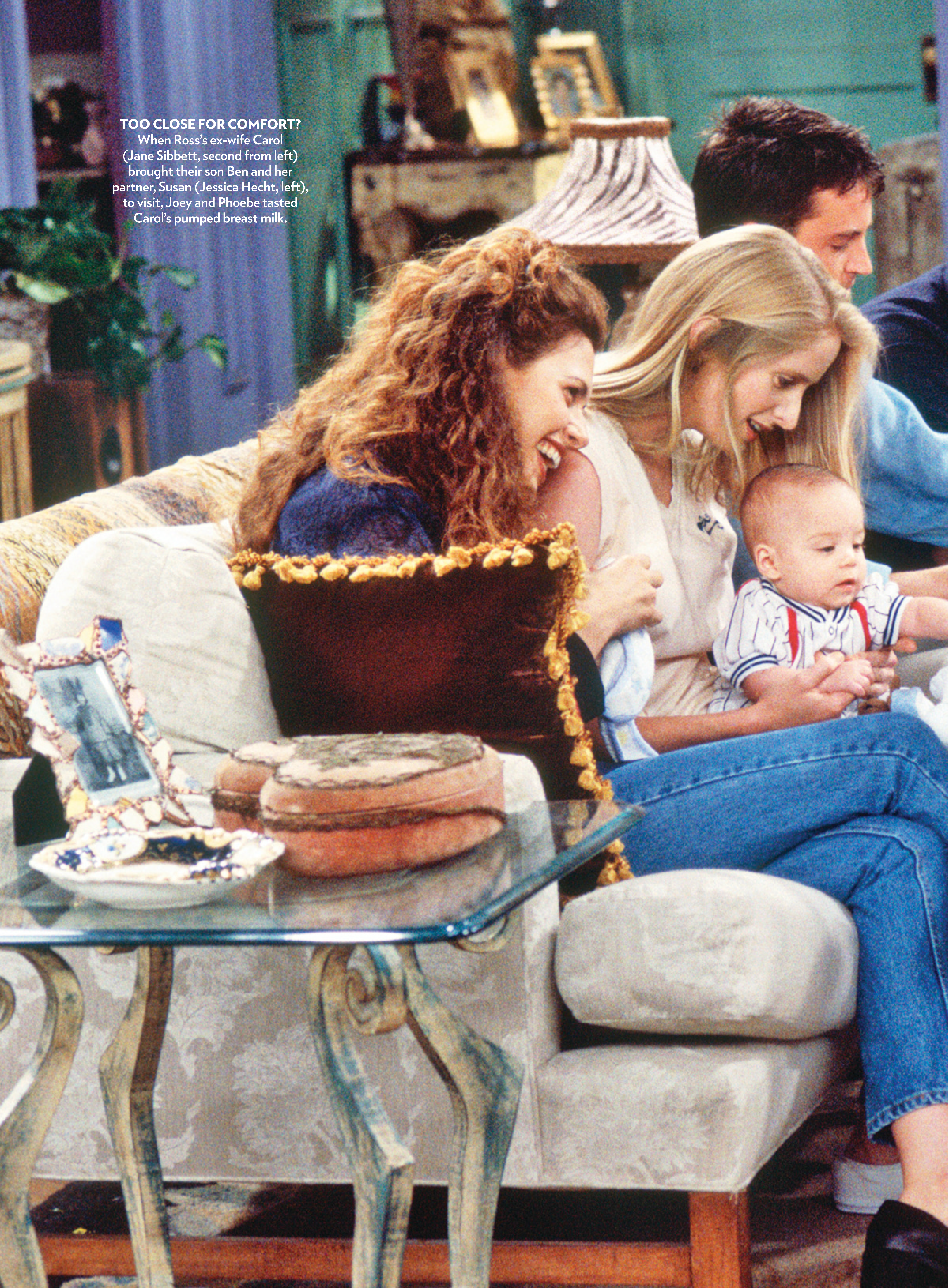
SEASON 6: THE VOICE-OVER
Chandler regifts a mixtape to Monica for Valentine’s Day, having forgotten who made it for him—until Janice’s vocal stylings interrupt Tony Bennett’s.

SEASON 7: THE CUSTOMER
A diner has a complaint? Send her back, says chef Monica. It’s Janice! Chandler’s ex spots her ring and asks who’s the lucky guy.

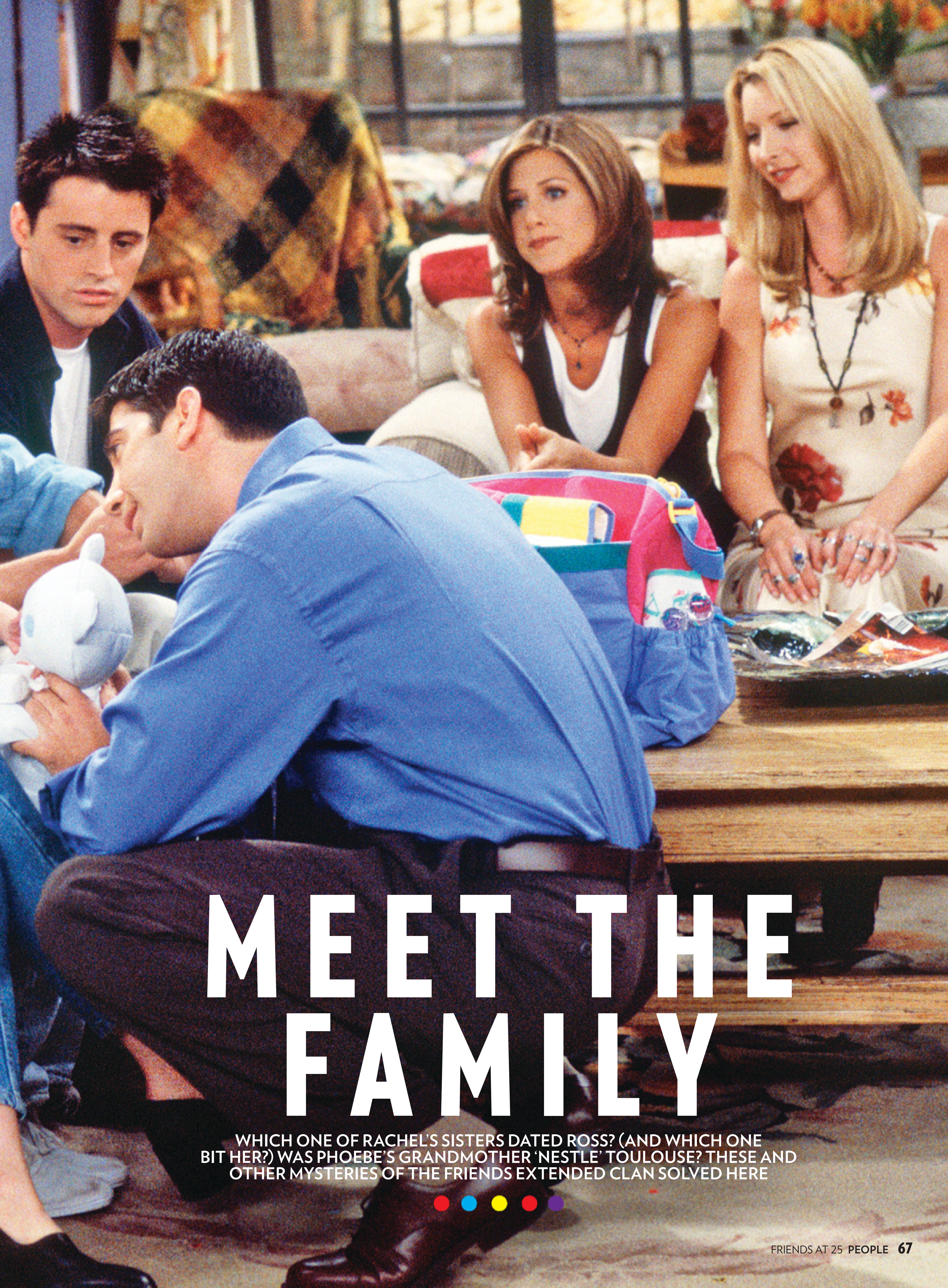
SEASON 8: THE BABY BOOMER
Who’s in the bed next to Rachel in the maternity ward? “I have a very wide pelvis,” brags Janice. “You remember, Chandler.”

SEASON 9: THE CLINICIAN
“No one here even knows you,” Monica assures Chandler at the fertility clinic before they run into—wait for it—Janice, who is trying again with husband Sid.

SEASON 10: THE NEIGHBOR
Chandler feigns desire for his ex to keep her from buying the house next to him and Monica. Janice gives him a last kiss goodbye.



TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT? When Ross's ex-wife Carol (Jane Sibbett, second from left) brought their son Ben and her partner, Susan (Jessica Hecht, left), to visit, Joey and Phoebe tasted Carol's pumped breast milk.



MEET THE FAMILY

WHICH ONE OF RACHEL'S SISTERS DATED ROSS? (AND WHICH ONE BIT HER?) WAS PHOEBE'S GRANDMOTHER 'NESTLE' TOULOUSE? THESE AND OTHER MYSTERIES OF THE FRIENDS EXTENDED CLAN SOLVED HERE

ROSS & MONICA'S FAMILY

THE LONG ISLAND GELLERS
Opposite: "[Ross] is the prince. Apparently they had some big ceremony before I was born," says Monica of their parents' unequal distribution of love. Judy Geller (Christina Pickles) takes frequent digs at Monica, while Jack (Elliott Gould) can be relied on for a daft remark ("Rachel, love your new nose!")—and a big gesture. In 2001 he gives Monica his midlife-crisis Porsche.

CAROL WILLICK & SUSAN BUNCH
Right: In the pilot Ross is splitting from first wife Carol (Jane Sibbett, far right) who has fallen in love with Susan (Jessica Hecht, right). When they marry in season 2, Ross gives Carol away, as her parents refuse to attend. "Why wouldn't I want to come?" he says. "I had fun at the first wedding."

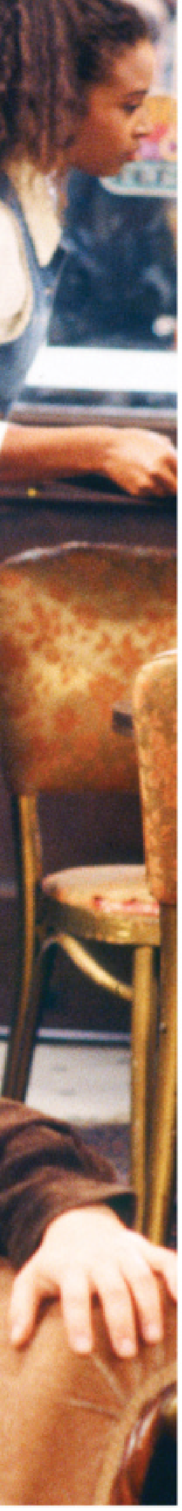
WHAT HAPPENED TO BEN GELLER?
Ross and Carol's son (future *Riverdale* star Cole Mitchell Sprouse) celebrated Hanukkah with Dad, aka the Holiday Armadillo. As Ben isn't heard from much late in the series, Grandpa Jack can be forgiven for blurting out, "My first grandchild!" when Ben's half sister Emma is born in season 8.

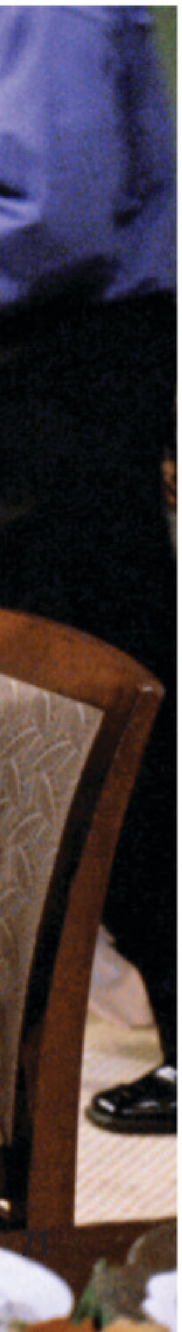
THE GREENS

●●●●●

SANDRA GREEN
Right: The friends meet Rachel's socialite mom (Marlo Thomas) when she announces her divorce in Central Perk. "You didn't marry your Barry, honey," she tells Rachel, "but I married mine."

LEONARD GREEN
Below: When Rachel (with Phoebe along to lessen the blow) tells her terminally disagreeable cardiologist father (actor Ron Liebman) she's pregnant with Ross's child, he surprises her and cries, "I'm going to be a Poppy!" But his joy disappears when he learns there will be no wedding.





RACHEL'S SISTER JILL
Above: Reese Witherspoon played the youngest Green sister, who shares with Rachel a shopping habit and desire to start a life free of their domineering father. She tries to seduce Ross, but when he rebuffs her (at then ex-girlfriend Rachel's request), Jill leaves in a huff.

RACHEL'S OTHER SISTER, AMY
Even Phoebe knew her as "the sister who bit Rachel." And as an adult, Amy (Christina Applegate) was still dim and pretty mean. She could never remember Ross (they grew up together!) and had infant Emma's ears pierced while babysitting. Said Joey: "She may be the hottest girl I've ever hated."

PHOEBE'S TREE

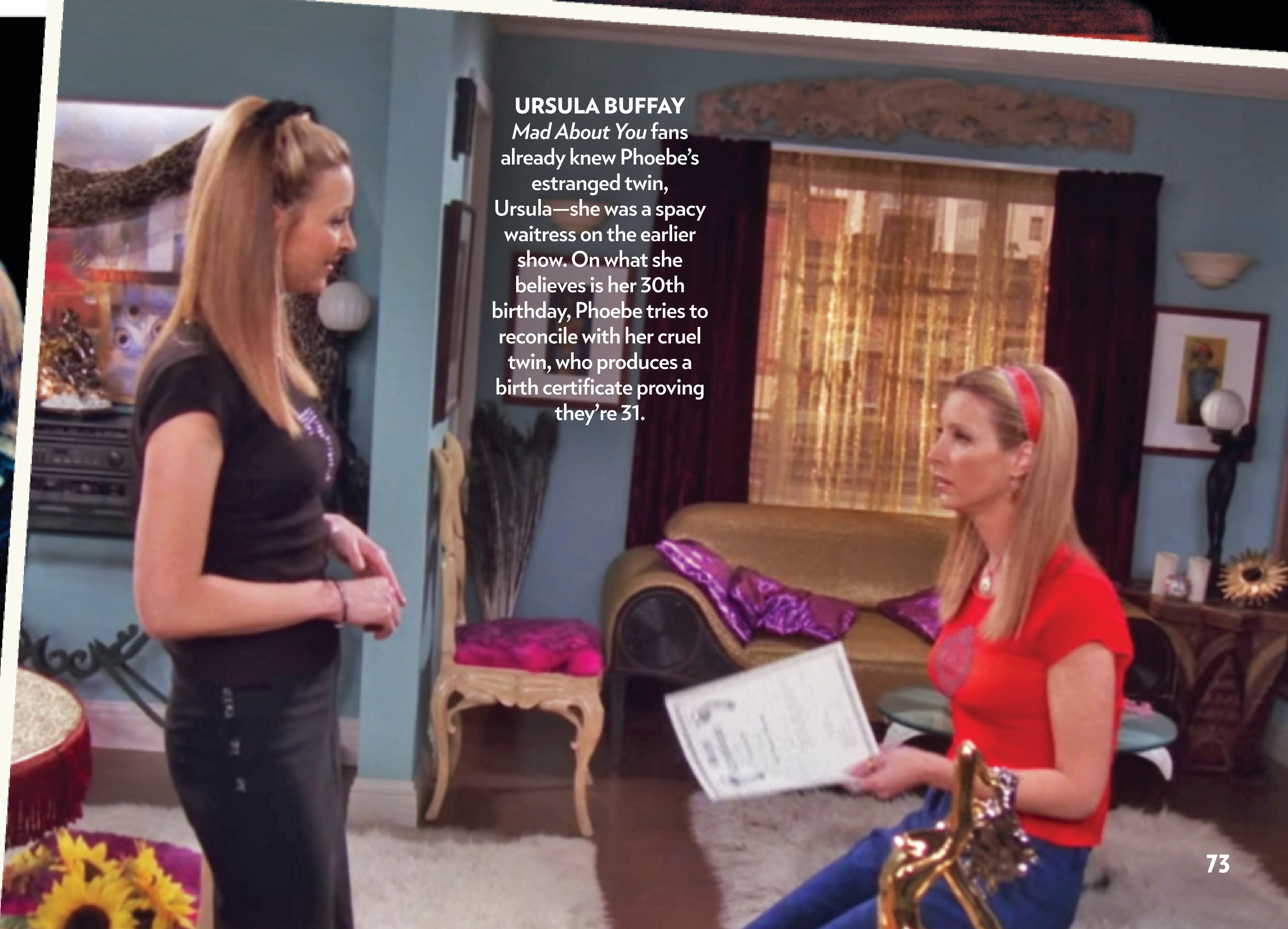
● ● ● ● ●

THE BIOLOGICAL MOM
Above: In season 3 Phoebe meets real estate agent/erotic ceramicist Phoebe Abbott (Teri Garr), who had given up her girls to friends Frank and Lily. ("We were like a couple," she explains.) She waits a day to reveal that she's the birth mom because, she says, "I felt all floopy," thus proving their genetic bond.

THE LONG-LOST DAD
Right: Pharmacist Frank Buffay (Bob Balaban), who left his girls as infants with wife Lily (who later kills herself), remeets Phoebe at his ex-mother-in-law's funeral. They fail to connect, but she learns a lullaby he sang her provided the melody for *Smelly Cat*.

FRANK JR. AND THE TRIPLETS
Above: When her brother (Giovanni Ribisi) and his wife, Alice (Debra Jo Rupp), can't conceive, Phoebe acts as surrogate and gives birth to triplets: son Frank Jr. Jr. and daughters Leslie and Chandler.

GRANDMA FRANCES
Right: Audra Lindley (Mrs. Roper from *Three's Company*!) played the mother of Phoebe's adoptive mom. When Frances dies, she leaves her granddaughter a yellow taxicab.



URSULA BUFFAY
Mad About You fans already knew Phoebe's estranged twin, Ursula—she was a spacy waitress on the earlier show. On what she believes is her 30th birthday, Phoebe tries to reconcile with her cruel twin, who produces a birth certificate proving they're 31.

A TON OF TRIBBIANIS

GLORIA & JOEY SR.
Joey didn't like that his dad, a Staten Island pipe fitter (played by Robert Costanzo, right), was carrying on an extramarital affair with pet mortician Ronni Rapalono. But Joey's mom (Brenda Vaccaro, above) didn't mind. It's good he has a "hobby," she told her son. Plus his guilt was making him treat her better than ever.

THE SEVEN SISTERS
When Joey's siblings—Gina, Dina, Tina, Veronica, Mary Angela, Mary Therese and Cookie—came to his party, a drunk Chandler fooled around with one of them but couldn't remember which one.

CHANDLER'S FOLKS

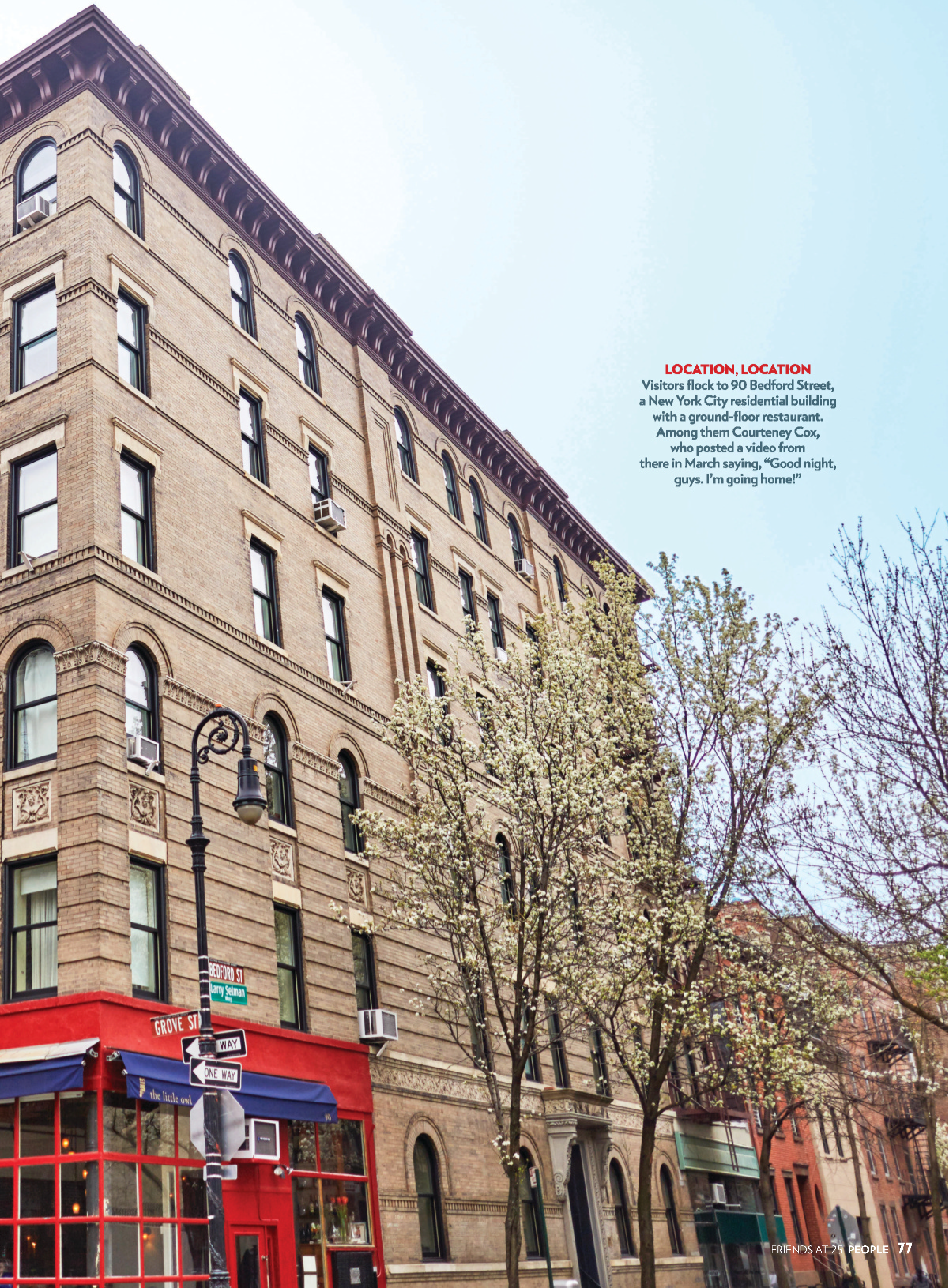
NORA TYLER BING
Right: Chandler's mother is a bestselling romance novelist (played by Morgan Fairchild), the kind of mom who would go on *The Tonight Show* and tell the world she'd bought her son his first condoms. The kind of mom who will kiss her son's heartsick buddy Ross to cheer him up when Rachel's with Paolo. That kind.

CHARLES BING
Below: His parents split after his dad came out; the older Bing (played by husky-voiced Kathleen Turner) then became a drag queen performing as "Helena Handbasket." Joked Chandler: "If I turn into my parents, I'll either be an alcoholic blond chasing after 20-year-old boys, or . . . I'll end up like my mom."

PLACES THEY REMEMBER

WITH A COFFEE SHOP DOWNSTAIRS, THEIR GREENWICH VILLAGE APARTMENT WAS 'A HAPPY PLACE,' SAYS CHANDLER. 'BUT MORE IMPORTANT, BECAUSE OF RENT CONTROL, IT WAS A FREAKING STEAL'

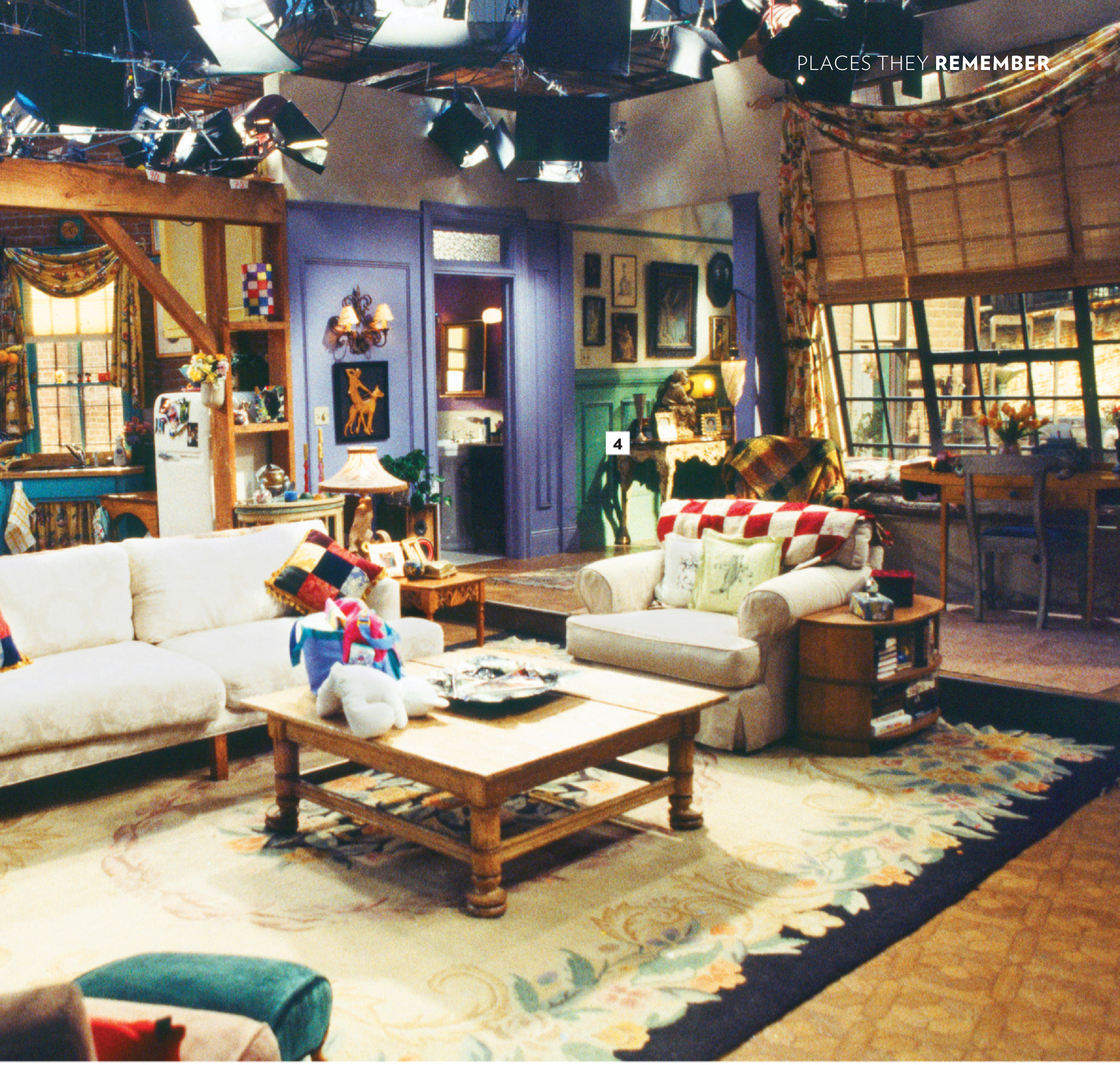
NO PARKING
Anytime


BEDFORD ST
Larry Selman Way
GROVE ST
ONE WAY
ONE WAY
the little owl

LOCATION, LOCATION
Visitors flock to 90 Bedford Street, a New York City residential building with a ground-floor restaurant. Among them Courteney Cox, who posted a video from there in March saying, “Good night, guys. I’m going home!”

MONICA'S APARTMENT

At one time or another, all six friends lived here. (Ross's stint was in college, when he was trying to make it as a dancer and living with the grandmother who left the flat to Monica.) But despite the rotating residents, little changed about the place. "The apartment is comfortable for viewers," set decorator Greg Grande told *Entertainment Weekly* in 2001. "Remember when Mary Tyler Moore changed apartments? It was completely uncomfortable.… We didn't want that to happen here." And yet Joey asks in the finale, when the living room is bare, "Has it always been purple?"



5

1. GOLD FRAME
Set decorator Grande found the picture frame at the Rose Bowl Swap Meet. Its glass broke when they were setting up, so he suggested hanging it on the back of the door around the peephole, and a kitschy keepsake was born.

2. OPEN SHELVES
The food seen in Monica's kitchen was picked out thoughtfully—she was, after all, a chef. "You can't [stock] macaroni and cheese for her," co-executive producer Todd Stevens told *EW*. "She's a cook and needs the good stuff."

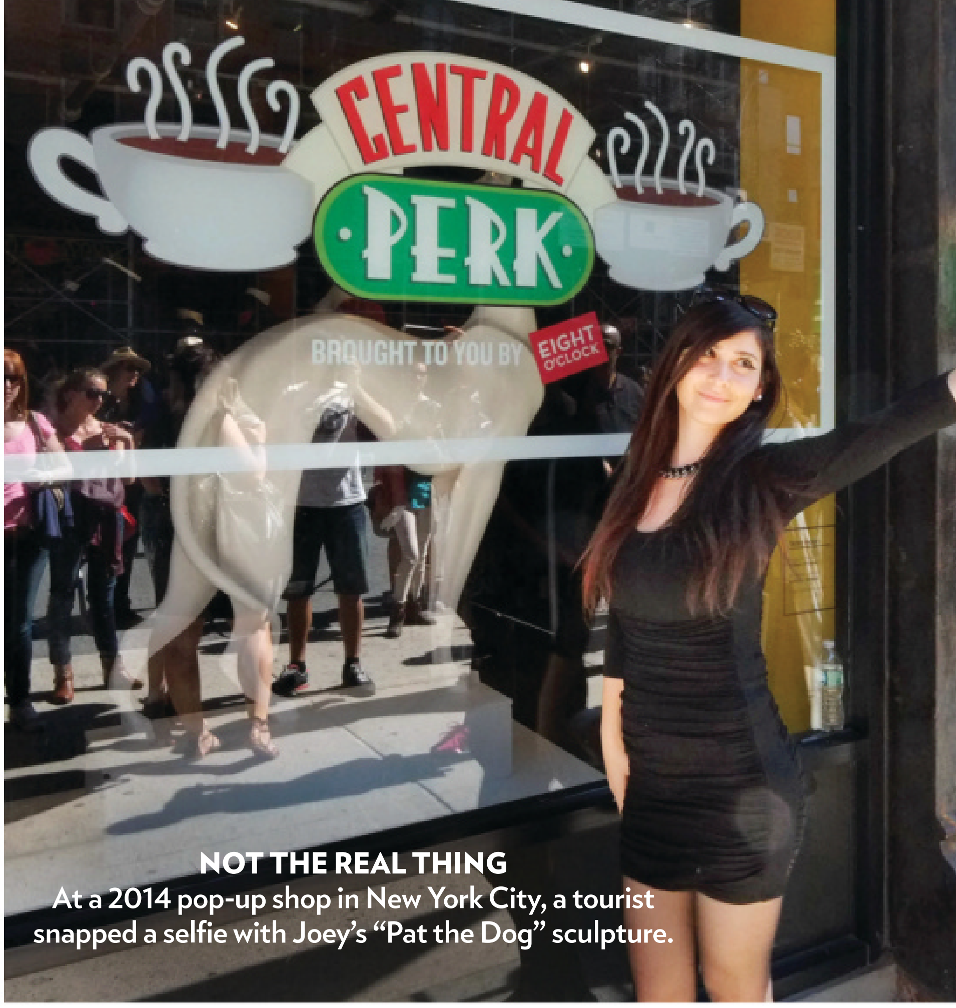
3. DRAWERS AND UTENSILS
The drawers were often filled with atypical items the actors needed during filming. "It's called cubbying," said prop master Marjorie Coster-Praytor, who once kept condoms in the utensil drawer for a season 8 sight gag. Replicas of Monica's vintage "HOMEMADE PICKLES" jar go for about $100 today online.

4. SIDE TABLE
The side table in the hallway is stocked with glossies of Monica's parents (played by Elliott Gould and Christina Pickles) along with snapshots of all the child actors who played Ross's son Ben. Chandler lays his tools on the table in season 8, when he takes the door off Monica's locked closet and finds it stuffed with junk. "You're messy!" he exults.

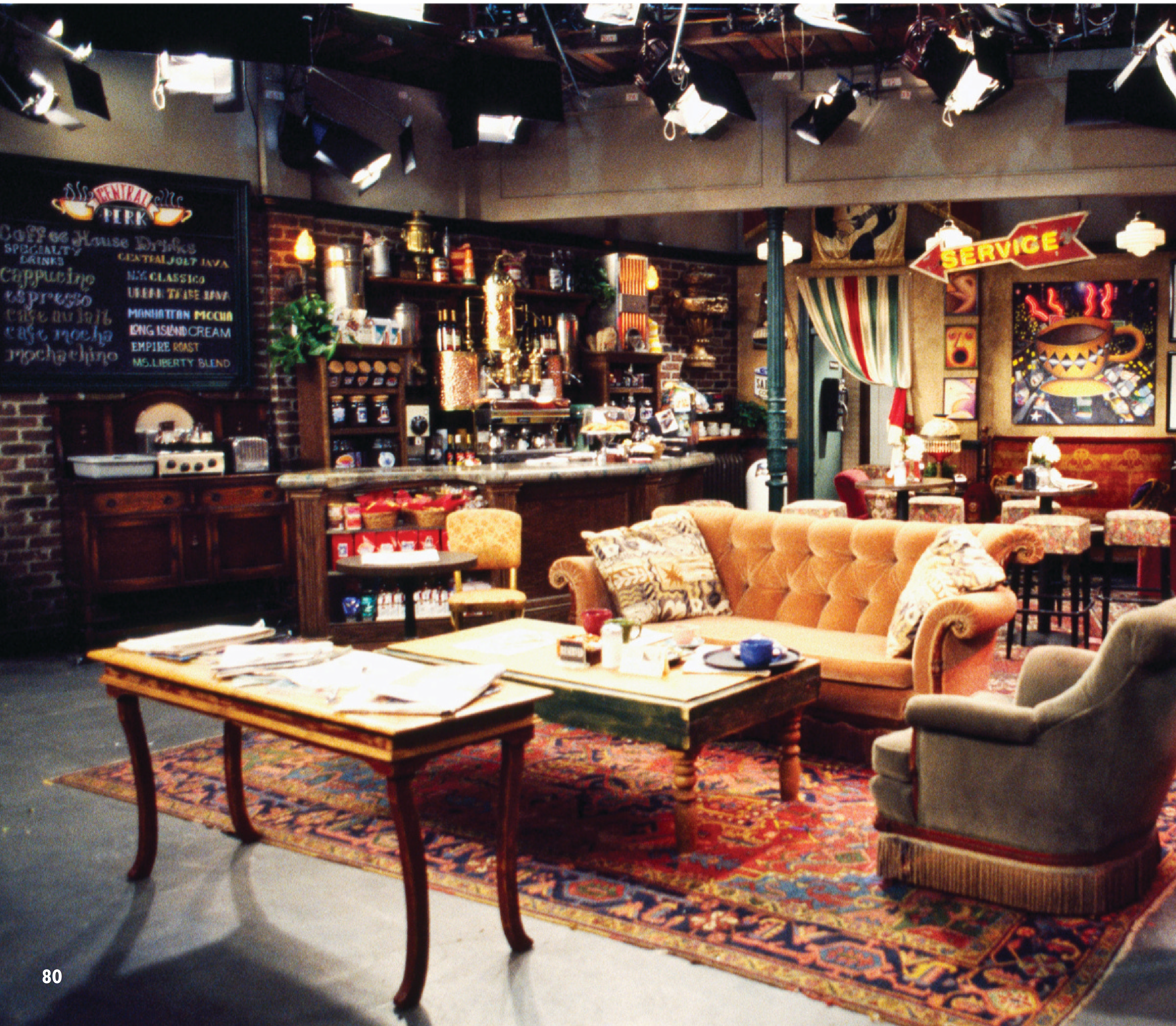
5. HEIRLOOM BUFFET
The '30s-era chest was found in the Warner Bros. prop house; Monica uses it as a TV stand and linen closet. "It's filled with placemats, throws and the Thanksgiving tablecloth," said Grande. "Be careful of that," a nostalgic Monica tells the movers in the last episode. "It was my grandmother's."

CENTRAL PERK

The look of the gang's home away from home was modeled on a now-defunct West Village vegetarian restaurant called Arnold's Turtle, which production designer John Shaffner used to frequent. The couch was found in the basement of the Warner Bros. prop house and reupholstered. Over the years the art changed but not the furnishings. (Joey's chair, to the left of the sofa, was replaced; the first one squeaked.) According to a season 6 episode, a double latte cost $2.75. With prices like that, plus live entertainment, why was the couch miraculously always unoccupied until the friends arrived?


CENTRAL PERK
BROUGHT TO YOU BY EIGHT O'CLOCK

NOT THE REAL THING
At a 2014 pop-up shop in New York City, a tourist snapped a selfie with Joey's "Pat the Dog" sculpture.


CENTRAL PERK
Coffee House Drinks
SPECIALTY DRINKS
cappucino
espresso
cafe au lait
cafe mocha
mochachino
CENTRAL JOLT JAVA
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MANHATTAN MOCHA
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18+

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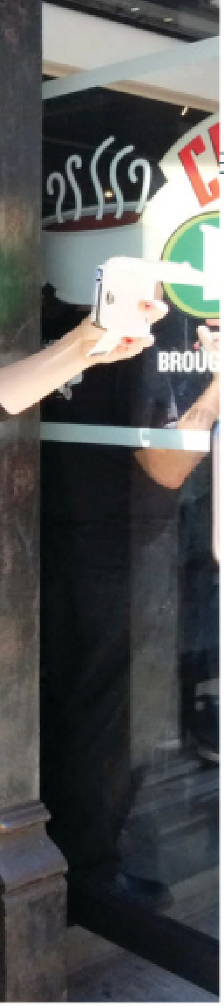


GUNTHER SPILLS ALL

JAMES MICHAEL TYLER, WHO PLAYED THE BLOND BARISTA, SPOKE WITH *ALL YOU* IN 2014, WHEN A CENTRAL PERK CAFE POPPED UP IN MANHATTAN

—BY KATHLEEN MULPETER

How does it feel to be back in Central Perk?

I think it's just a wonderful opportunity, and it's for the fans. [Warner Bros. has done] such a great job re-creating basically a museum of *Friends* memorabilia. So I think it's going to be a really cool way for even the new generation of fans who missed the first part to see actual things from the show, like the props. And Eight O'Clock Coffee created this special blend, which is absolutely delicious.

What's your go-to coffee order?

You know, I'm pretty much simple with it. I like just black, regular coffee.

Do you have a favorite coffee shop (besides Central Perk)?

I do; it's one that I actually worked in. It's called Bourgeois Pig, in Hollywood. I was a barista when I started *Friends*.

What was your favorite episode of Friends*? Do you remember your favorite line as Gunther?*

My favorite episode is "The One with the Prom Video," when you see them in high school and see the genesis of all their characters. And my favorite Gunther line is probably "Put the mouse back in the house" [from "The One Where Monica and Richard Are Just Friends"] with Phoebe's boyfriend [who had an overexposure problem with his gym shorts], if you remember that episode. I also really liked the one where Gunther spoke Dutch [from "The One with the Stain"]. And as far as another character's line: "We were on a break!"

What do you think would have happened if Rachel and Gunther ever got together and went out? Where would their first date have been?

You are the only one that's ever asked me that. Let me think about that for a second. I cannot see it going well. Gunther…he only made $4 an hour, right? So he would have had to save up a lot, because you know he would have wanted to take Rachel to a really nice place to eat. So he probably would have had to starve himself for a few weeks in order to save up to satisfy her expectations. She liked nice things, and Gunther wouldn't have been able to give her nice things.

You wore some really amazing ties on the show. Did you have any part in picking them out? Did you keep them?

I had no part in picking them out; that was all the wonderful people in the wardrobe department. I have no idea where they got all of those, but I did get to keep some. At the end of the show, as a matter of fact, the very last tie that I wore in the last scene when Gunther professes his love to Rachel, wardrobe let me keep that one, and I took it to the wrap party, and the entire cast signed it.

Who was your favorite guest appearance?

There were so many, but one that just really stays in my mind is Sean Penn. It was just really cool having him on the show. I knew he was a great comedic actor, but he had not done comedy in a while, so when he came on the show and was so funny and such a great actor, it was inspiring.

Last question. Favorite Phoebe Buffay song?

"Smelly Cat." I know she had several others that were hilarious, but that one is my favorite.

THAT CATCHY THEME SONG

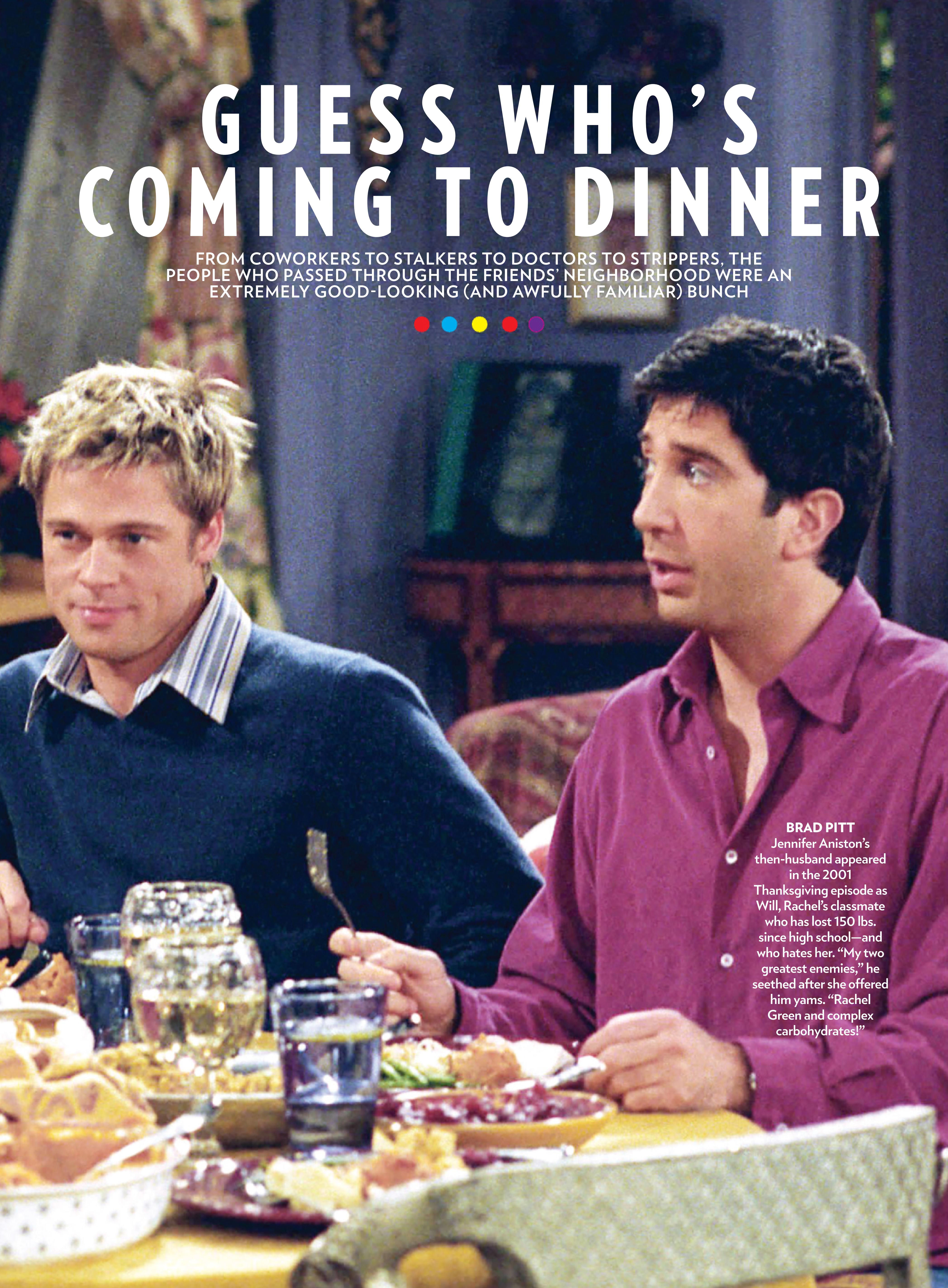
The Rembrandts weren't strangers to the charts before they recorded the theme song to *Friends*. In 1991 the L.A.-based duet of Danny Wilde and Phil Solem (far right, on *The Tonight Show* in 1995) hit 14 on the *Billboard* pop chart with "Just the Way It Is, Baby," off their debut album. But nothing beat having a song that played at the start of what would soon be the most popular show on TV. (For those of you joining the *Friends* fandom in the streaming era, this was before "Skip Intro.") "I'll Be There for You," which topped the Hot 100 for eight weeks, was written by the band, along with *Friends* producers David Crane and Marta Kauffman, her then husband, composer Michael Skloff and songwriter Allee Willis. Since then Wilde and Solem, both 63, have split and reunited a few times—2019's *Via Satellite* is their first album in 18 years. Still, Wilde's grateful for that first, famous earworm. "That song—I'm not ashamed of it," he told *EW*. "It put us on the map."

the rembrandts
L.P.

NOW IT'S STUCK IN YOUR HEAD (SORRY) The opening credits (left) were shot on a backlot in Burbank before the cast knew one another well. Matthew Perry described it as "six people in a fountain at 4 in the morning who are about to embark on a journey." Right: They goofed on the song again in a music video for the Rembrandts.

GUESS WHO'S COMING TO DINNER

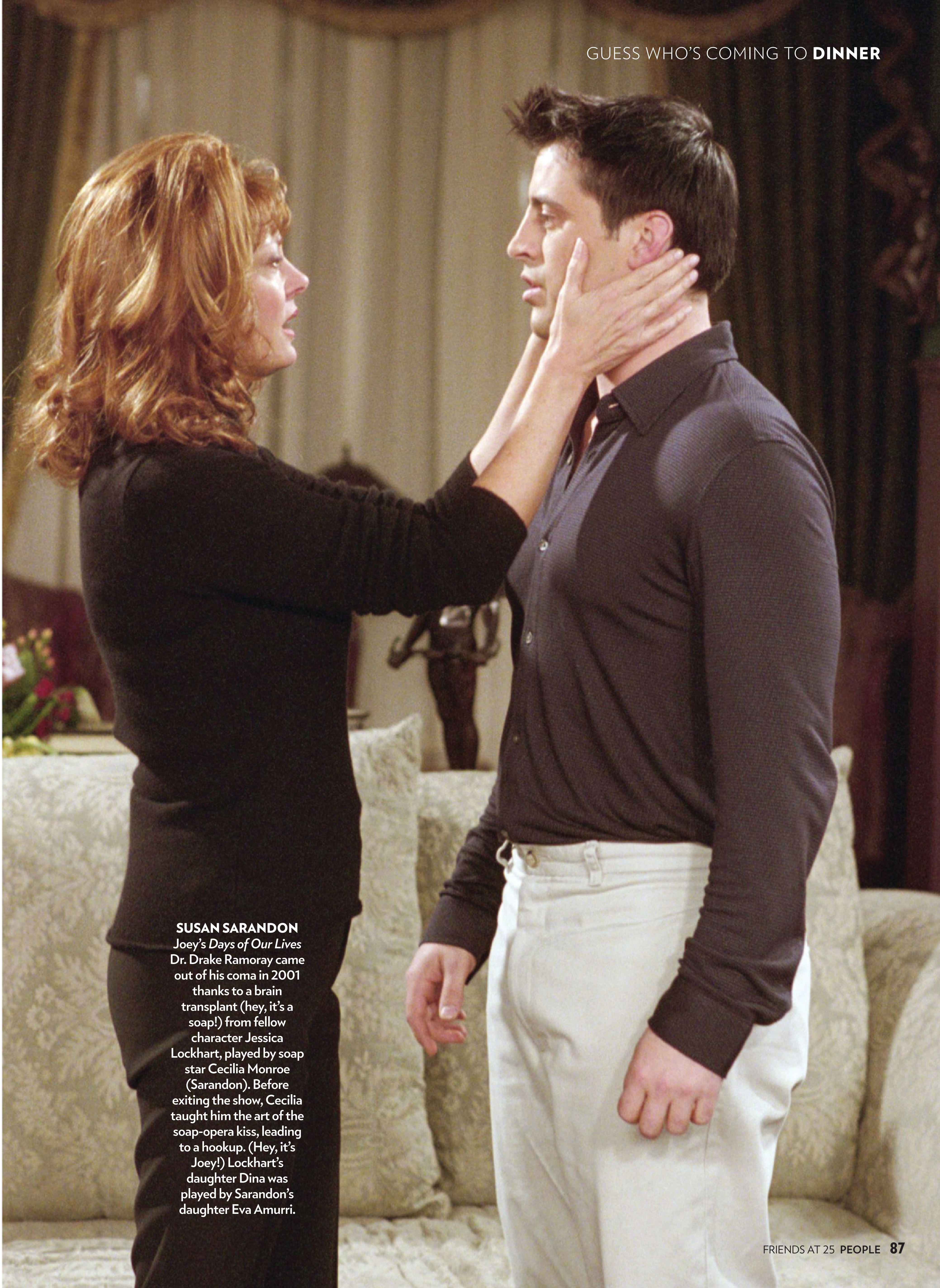
FROM COWORKERS TO STALKERS TO DOCTORS TO STRIPPERS, THE PEOPLE WHO PASSED THROUGH THE FRIENDS' NEIGHBORHOOD WERE AN EXTREMELY GOOD-LOOKING (AND AWFULLY FAMILIAR) BUNCH



BRAD PITT
Jennifer Aniston's then-husband appeared in the 2001 Thanksgiving episode as Will, Rachel's classmate who has lost 150 lbs. since high school—and who hates her. "My two greatest enemies," he seethed after she offered him yams. "Rachel Green and complex carbohydrates!"

JULIA ROBERTS
In a 1996 episode, Chandler ran into former school friend Susie Moss, who had been living down the epithet Susie Underpants ever since fourth grade, when Chandler lifted her skirt during a school assembly. He couldn't believe his good luck when she agreed to a date, unaware she was interested only in revenge; she stranded him in a restaurant bathroom wearing only *her* undies. "I hope you realize you're not getting these underpants back," a defeated Chandler yelled from the stall.

GEORGE CLOONEY & NOAH WYLE
When uninsured Rachel hurt her ankle in 1995, she pretended to be Monica in order to use her roommate's health benefits. At the hospital they were asked out by two doctors (played by the then-stars of *ER*). "Aren't you a little cute to be a doctor?" asked a smitten Rachel, er, Monica.



SUSAN SARANDON
Joey's *Days of Our Lives* Dr. Drake Ramoray came out of his coma in 2001 thanks to a brain transplant (hey, it's a soap!) from fellow character Jessica Lockhart, played by soap star Cecilia Monroe (Sarandon). Before exiting the show, Cecilia taught him the art of the soap-opera kiss, leading to a hookup. (Hey, it's Joey!) Lockhart's daughter Dina was played by Sarandon's daughter Eva Amurri.

BROOKE SHIELDS
Drake Ramoray superfan (and stalker) Erika Ford didn't understand that Joey wasn't really a doctor. He asked her out (hey, it's Joey), and when a restaurant patron choked, she offered up the services of "the best doctor in all of Salem." Her loopy hand-licking stint won Shields the lead on *Suddenly Susan* the next year.

JENNIFER COOLIDGE
The girls' 2003 attempt to "cut out" an annoying long-ago friend with a fake English accent (played deliciously by the *American Pie* mom) revealed that Phoebe had once tried to cut Monica out too. "I feel like a perfect *arse*," said Amanda (Coolidge). "In America you're just an ass," Phoebe responded.

JON LOVITZ
Left: The former *Saturday Night Live* star played a massage client of Phoebe's looking to hire a chef. Monica prepared a tasting, to which he showed up stoned. He wolfed down her ravioli and repeated "tartlet" until, he observed spacily, "the word [had] lost all meaning."

WINONA RYDER
Above: Rachel's sorority sister Melissa claimed not to recall a kiss they shared at a college luau. Rachel gave her another kiss, prompting Melissa (Ryder) to declare her love and Phoebe to say, "Somewhere, Joey's head is exploding."

JOHN STAMOS
Below: In 2003 the *Full House* star played Chandler's office mate Zack, who was invited to dinner unaware that he was under consideration as a sperm donor. When the couple asked about heart disease, gout and baldness, he replied, "You guys don't have people over for dinner a lot, huh?"

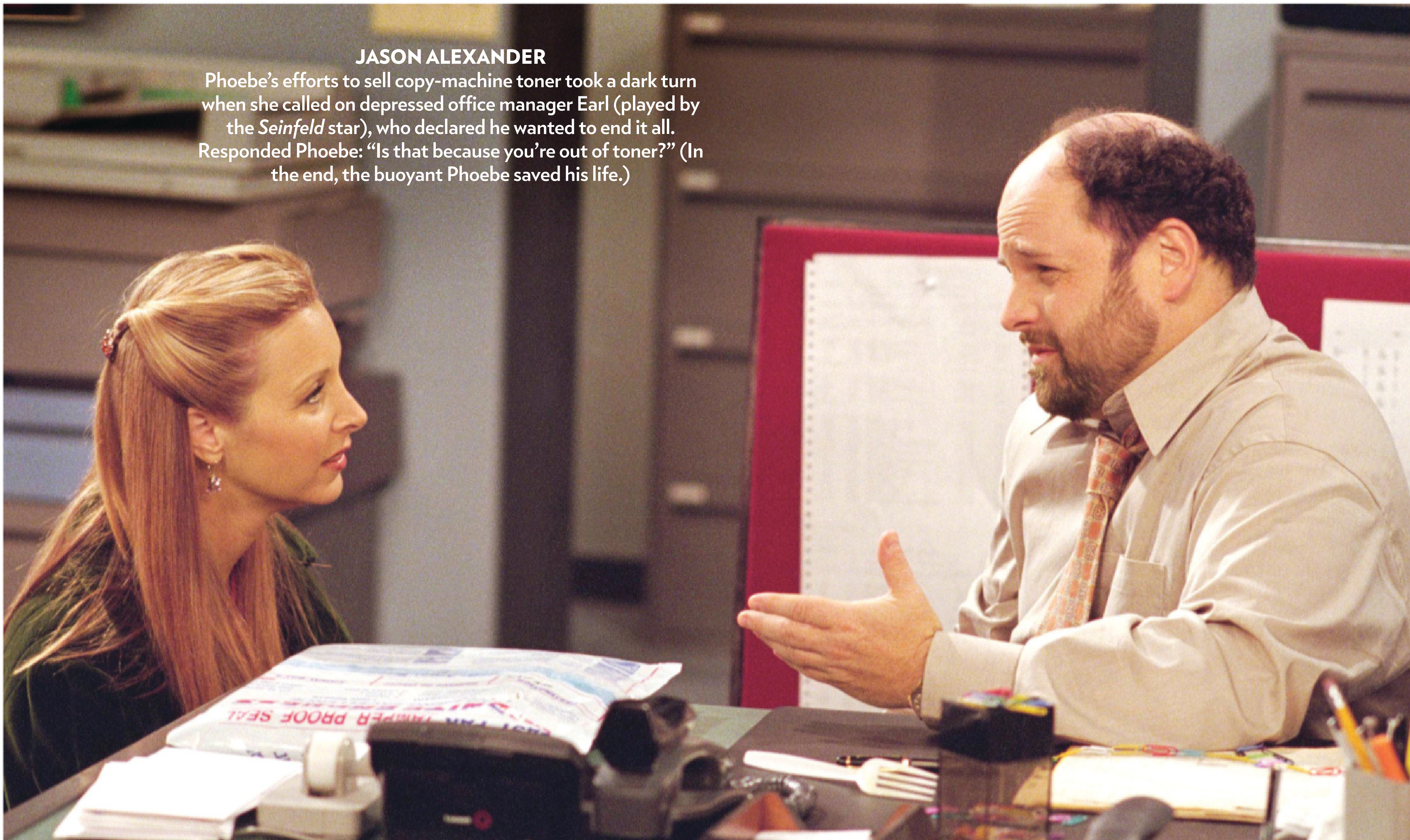
BILLY CRYSTAL & ROBIN WILLIAMS

Above: The comedy greats used a coffeehouse cameo to improvise a scene in which Williams (speaking in an unspecified accent) told pal Crystal that he suspected his wife of cheating on him with her gynecologist ("He has access"), but it was Crystal himself she was sleeping with. They fought and left. And…scene.

HUGH LAURIE

Right: Before he was Dr. House, the British actor was an unlucky passenger seated next to Rachel as she justified her plans—all the way across the Atlantic—to tell Ross she loved him before his wedding to Emily. "I'm afraid I have to agree with your friend Pheebs: This is a terrible plan," he said. "By the way, it seems perfectly clear you were on a break."

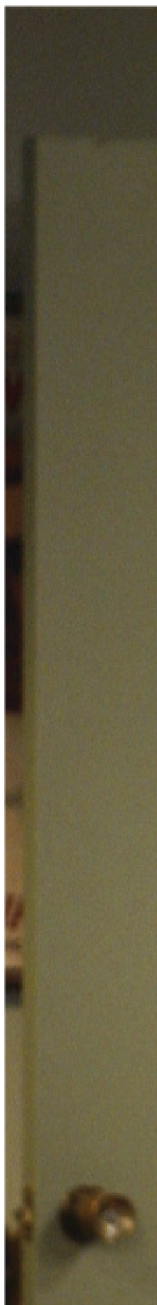
SARAH, DUCHESS OF YORK
"It's Fergie, baby!" enthused Joey on meeting the former Sarah Ferguson before Ross and Emily's 1998 London wedding. (When Chandler failed to share his touristic excitement, Joey accused him of being "Westminster Crabby.") How did *Friends* producers land a real royal? "My children absolutely love it," said Sarah of the show, which was a huge hit in the U.K. "I watch it all the time."



JASON ALEXANDER
Phoebe's efforts to sell copy-machine toner took a dark turn when she called on depressed office manager Earl (played by the *Seinfeld* star), who declared he wanted to end it all. Responded Phoebe: "Is that because you're out of toner?" (In the end, the buoyant Phoebe saved his life.)

CHRISSIE HYNDE
Left: Phoebe lost her Central Perk gig to professional musician Stephanie (played by the Pretenders lead singer in a 1995 episode). Her revenge was to busk outside the coffeehouse during Stephanie's sets. "How many chords do you know?" taunted Phoebe. "All of them," replied the bewildered musician. All was well when Phoebe taught her to play "Smelly Cat."

CHARLTON HESTON
Below: Joey landed a movie with the *Ten Commandments* actor in 1998 but almost lost the part when he showed up smelling like fish after coming back from a fishing trip. He fell asleep while learning the lines and went directly to the set instead of showering, then broke a big rule: Thou Shalt Not Use the Star's Shower. "Put some pants on, kid," ordered the Oscar winner (who died in 2008) when he found Joey lathering up, "so I can kick your butt."



JENNIFER GREY

Above: Rachel's ex-fiancé Dr. Barry Farber, D.D.S., proved he hadn't changed in 1995 when he slept with Rachel despite now being engaged to Rachel's erstwhile maid of honor Mindy (Grey). What did she expect after Barry slept with Mindy back when he was with Rachel? She finally decided, "He's Satan in a smock!"

ISABELLA ROSSELLINI

Left: While dating, Ross and Rachel each made a list of five famous people they could sleep with without consequence. When the Italian film star turned up in Central Perk, Ross hit on her, but she pointed out she was *not* on his list. He claimed it wasn't final, but she noted, "It's laminated." Ross admitted, "I bumped you for Winona Ryder. Local."

JEFF GOLDBLUM

Below: "Bursting with Yoo-hoo," Joey squirmed through an audition for a 2003 play directed by Goldblum's character Leonard Hayes. After giving him the part, Hayes said, "You can relax now." Regrettably, a relieved Joey did just that.

CREDITS

DANNY DEVITO
Phoebe was initially put off by the stripper hired for her 2004 bachelorette party, but after "Officer Goodbody" started crying, he won her over. The *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia* star, then 60, said he had hoped to take off more clothing. "How could you pass up a chance to strip for the lovely ladies on *Friends*?" DeVito joked to PeopleTV.com.

FRONT COVER
Jon Ragel/NBC/NBCU Photo Bank/Getty Images

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(clockwise from top) SIPA; Robert Isenberg/NBC/NBCU Photo Bank/Getty Images; NBC/NBCU Photo Bank/Getty Images

PAGE 96 QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A 2. B 3. A (Judy is Ross and Monica's mother; Lily is Phoebe's deceased adoptive mother.) 4. B (Rachel got that one wrong—she said Chandler Bing.) 5. C (His drag name is Helena Handbasket; there is a real-life band called Kathleen Turner Overdrive, named for the actress who plays him.) 6. A ("Little Harmonica" is her parents' nickname for her.) 7. B 8. A 9. B (Chandler whispered an unprintable wrong guess to Ross.) 10. A 11. C 12. C 13. A ("George Glass" was Jan Brady's imaginary boyfriend on *The Brady Bunch*.) 14. B 15. B (Rachel incorrectly guessed "transponster"; WENUS was part of his job: Weekly Estimated Net Usage Systems.) **BONUS** 1. Half-eaten box of cookies 2. apples 3. tortilla chips 4. yogurt 5. diet soda 6. Scotch tape

meredith

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GAME OVER Joey and Chandler's moment of victory.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR *FRIENDS*?

FIND OUT WITH THE EXACT QUIZ THAT LOST THE GIRLS' APARTMENT TO THE GUYS

In the season 4 episode "The One with the Embryos," Joey tells Monica he knows she's wearing her "old lady underpants" because it's laundry day. How well do the neighbors know one another? Ross acts as quiz master when the boys go up against the girls—with the bigger apartment (or eviction for the pet rooster and duck) on the line. Can you answer all the questions they did?

1. What is Monica's biggest pet peeve?
A. Animals dressed as humans
B. Humans dressed as food items
C. Identical twins dressed alike

2. According to Chandler, what phenomenon scares the bejesus out of him?
A. Zamfir, Master of the Pan Flute
B. Michael Flatley, Lord of the Dance
C. Bob Ross, host of *The Joy of Painting*

3. Monica and Ross had a grandmother who died. Name that grandmother!
A Althea
B. Judy
C. Lily

4. Every week the *TV Guide* comes to Chandler and Joey's apartment. What name appears on the address label?
A. Mr. Chandler Bing
B. Miss Chanandler Bong
C. Mr & Mrs. Chandler Tribbiani

5. What is the name of Chandler's father's Las Vegas all-male burlesque?
A. The Helena Handbasket Revue
B. Kathleen Turner Overdrive
C. Viva Las Gaygas

6. What was Monica's nickname when she was a field hockey goalie?
A. Big Fat Goalie
B. Field of Screams
C. Little Harmonica

7. Rachel claims this is her favorite movie:
A. *Sense and Sensibility*
B. *Dangerous Liaisons*
C. *Howards End*

8. Her actual favorite movie is:
A. *Weekend at Bernie's*
B. *Uncle Buck*
C. *Mannequin*

9. In what part of her body did Monica get a pencil stuck at age 14?
A. Her nose
B. Her ear
C. Her belly button

10. Monica categorizes her towels. How many categories are there?
A. 11 B. 16 C. 21

11. What is Joey's favorite food?
A. Lasagna
B. Jam
C. Sandwiches

12. How old was Chandler when he first touched a girl's breast?
A. 14 B. 17 C. 19

13. Joey had an imaginary childhood friend. What was his name?
A. Maurice
B. Lil' Joey
C. George Glass

14. What was his profession?
A. Pizza chef
B. Space cowboy
C. Plumber

15. What is Chandler Bing's job?
A. Transponster
B. Statistical analysis and data reconfiguration
C. WENUS processing supervisor

BONUS! At the start of this episode, Chandler accurately guesses what's in Rachel's bag of groceries. There are six items. Name them:

1. ____________________
2. ____________________
3. ____________________
4. ____________________
5. ____________________
6. ____________________

Quiz answers on page 95